

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Don We Now Our Gayest Apparel

by Allen White

Christmas is just days away and the gay community is offering a wide variety of holiday fare to suit most every taste. Events on Christmas Eve range from a gay dance to several midnight Christmas services.

The most dramatic Christmas statement begins Sunday night at 10 p.m. as Dignity, the organization of gay Roman Catholics, celebrates Christmas Eve Mass. The theme of the service, once again, is "Come Out for Christmas!" and the location is the Dolores Street Baptist Church at 15th Street and Dolores.

The Mass has a special meaning for Dignity in San Francisco. One year ago, the Archdiocese of San Francisco callously stopped the group from worshipping in a Catholic Church because of opposition to homosexuality.

The group continued without interruption.

"We're still here, and here for good," said Kevin Calegari, Dignity's co-chair.

He said Sunday's event would be "Dignity's Christmas gift to the larger community, and a positive celebration and witness that gay and lesbian people are indeed part of the church."

The Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco will present two candlelight communion services on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. at 150 Eureka St.

The church will feature special music by the MCC/SF Festival Choir and a sermon by the Rev. Jim Mitulski. Holy Communion is served at both services and early arrival is suggested for good seats.

One of the most delightful holiday traditions in the gay community is the annual "Now Sing With Hearts Aglow" concert presented by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Sunday at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Post and Mason streets. Joining the Gay Men's Chorus will be the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco. Tickets are available for \$10 in advance, call 863-8326, or \$12 at the door.

For those preferring to dance their way into Christmas Day, Dreamland will be open for dancing throughout Christmas Eve.

"We are going to have a mellow Christmas Eve and give the community a place they may come together," said Ron Baer, Dreamland's general manager.

Leading up to Christmas Eve the Galleon Restaurant continues

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Jeff Johnson, soon to be ordained as the first gay Lutheran pastor of St. Paulus Lutheran Church. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Lutheran Theologian Bucks Tradition

by Dennis Conkin

Jeff Johnson thinks that if he tried to be ordained as a Lutheran pastor when Martin Luther was alive, he might have been sent to the stake.

That's because Johnson, 27, is gay.

Yet, Johnson will be ordained on Jan. 20 at St. Paulus Lutheran Church in an extraordinary ceremony that also includes the ordination of two lesbian women, Phyllis Zillhart and Ruth Frost, as Lutheran clergy.

Bishop Lyle Miller of the Sierra Pacific synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will not be presiding at the service. Miller has refused to ordain Johnson or the women.

In fact, Miller, unavailable for comment to the *Bay Area Reporter*, has informed First United Lutheran Church, the local congregation that wants Johnson as part of their pastoral team, that they face serious sanctions if they proceed with the ordination.

St. Francis Lutheran Church, which called Zillhart and Frost as pastors, faces the same sanctions.

ELCA doctrine does not allow gay Lutheran clergy to be sexually active, and because the congregation has knowingly called a sexually active gay man to the ministry, they could be suspended or expelled from the denomination.

For Johnson, the refusal of Miller to ordain him is particularly dramatic, because the bishop is a close family friend.

"It's very tense. Our families go back a long way. They are good friends with my father and mother. The kids are all the same ages. But that was 15 years ago and a lot has happened," Johnson said.

"I love him because of the history our families had together. I respect him as a bishop and pastor and as a fellow Lutheran, but I vehemently disagree with him."

"The church has been afraid of sexuality of all kinds," said Johnson, who holds a master of divinity degree from a local seminary. "But, the majority of the clergy in our conference have been supportive."

Because Miller refuses to ordain Johnson or the lesbian women, more than 60 Lutheran clergy supportive of gay clergy will participate in the ordination.

In the Lutheran tradition, if bishops are unable or unwilling to ordain a candidate called to the ministry, local pastors have the ecclesiastical authority to do so. Johnson will hold the status of a validly but illegally ordained Lutheran pastor.

"The bishop believes there's

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New Directions Sought

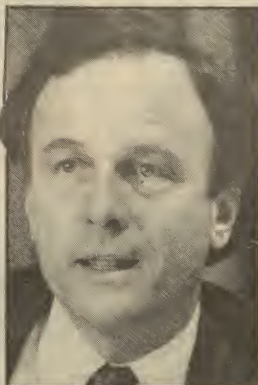
What Now For SFPD?

News Analysis by Dennis Conkin and Brett Averill

Last month, when Mayor Art Agnos asked former police chief Al Nelder to play a game of musical chairs and move from the volatile Police Commission to the more sedate Fire Commission, Nelder, 71, instead resigned. Hours later, Agnos appointed John Keker, 44, the Iran-Contra lawyer who prosecuted Ollie North, to the vacancy left by Nelder.

The move by Agnos, two years and two weeks into his four-year term, put the police department on notice that if it couldn't get its troubled home in order, he would make sure that the Police Commission did.

Keker is seen in City Hall circles as being a strong figure willing to stand up to a police department that frequently has seemed to teeter bravely within civilian control. As such, his appointment to the commission serves as a strong statement of Agnos's dissatisfaction with the status quo. Further, it serves as evidence of a changing of the commission's guard in the face of mounting and broad-based public criticism over the last year that the police department has gotten out of hand and that the commis-



John Keker, S.F. police commissioner. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

sion has been too inept to do anything about it.

Further, there is speculation that Agnos may appoint Keker president of the police commission, a move that insiders say would do even more to strengthen the mayor's hand. Lou Giraudo, a friend and confidant of Agnos, currently holds the position.

There may, however, be limits to what Agnos can do in the name of police reform. He is unpopular

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The First Gay Priest

J. Robert Williams is ordained by Newark Bishop John J. Spong at All Saints Church in Hoboken, N.J., on Dec. 16.

(Photo: T.L. Litt)

Bankruptcy

Chapter 7
Chapter 13

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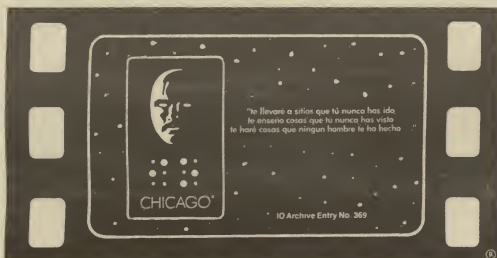
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SCENE AND HERO

Missing in Action

by Dave Ford

Drag imitated life last Sunday, when fourteen scary contestants converged on Club Uranus to claw for the Miss Uranus crown. They alarmed the gaping judges with their severe lack of runway poise, their domestic "talents" and their space-invading philosophies. "Jeanette, I love your pussy, but I miss your anus," one contestant, Miss Jeanette Earwax, said her boyfriend had recently told her, providing a Mobius-strip bad-pun self-referential subversion, once and for all, of the obvious quip about the Sunday night time-share club (your anus joke here).

Emcees G'Greg "Three G's, No Waiting" Taylor and J' "One Apostrophe, One Vote" Rome kept contestants—and vitriol—flowing smoothly (Taylor to one hopeful: "Lovely. Simple. Elegant. Your moment is over; *get off*"). Lovely, simple and elegant in black platform boots, black bodysuit and a day-glo galaxy wrapping his shaved skull, Taylor introduced poised and talented women like Brette Bimbette, Miss Amphibia from Titania, Miss Cindy Salamander and Miss Enema Felch. Popstitute spinoff Tylerella 2,000's bio claimed that she "physically represents thought patterns that exist in ways that show their inherent contradictions." Don't make a habit—or a repeating ironic reference—of it, honey.

Helena Handbasket and Vagina Dentata (*aka* the Girls With Arms Akimbo) read a refreshingly anti-male diatribe from a Society for Cutting Up Men (SCUM) manifesto—"every man knows deep down he's a worthless piece of shit"—which prompted cries of "show us your tits!" from the literal, heathen crowd. Literal heathens, three danger-seeking fag wanna-be's shouted a unison cheer: "Curl up and die of AIDS!" That prompted a patio fist-fight wanna-be while a couple of oblivious boys nearby practiced lovely, simple and elegant tongue work on each other's tonsils.

Miss Veronica, a striking thing in suede pants, read from a woman's jail memoir that posed a disturbing existential question: "What good [is] makeup in the hole?" My personal favorite, Miss Amanda (a sartorially spiff mannequin), vogued with arms in limbo; it was a moment to dismember. Asked a judge: "Amanda, if you were a food, what would you be and how would you be cooked?" Sizzled Amanda: "...

Second runner-up Imina Fog, *aka* Miss Daly City, fashioned a tasty party snack—dessert? breakfast cereal? facial mask?—from fruit cocktail, cherry yogurt and Cool Whip. Asked a judge: "What piece of trash are you attracted to?" Responded la Fog: "My outfit." Easy to see why: it was a polyester day-wear nightmare. Runner-up Earwax was asked her favorite planet. "Venus," she shrieked, "because it's the misty and cloudy, just like life." The discerning crowd cheered. Accepting her prize—a purse-sized chainsaw, perfect for fine-tuning those Lee press-ons—Earwax thanked her "Higher



Miss Uranus 1989.

(Photo: Marc Geller)

Power, for making me as beautiful as I am." The lying crowd cheered.

Contest winner DeDe Astor, who answered a question about her favorite murder technique by coyly, shyly slinking offstage (so poised and talented), coyly, shyly acceded in a post-win interview that "I'm looking to marry a Republican golfer." Does this mean she'll simply putt around the house during her year-long reign? Heck, no: "I'm going over to J'Rome's to try on outfits." Fabulous, dear; have a ball. A Wilson. And kudos to all the contestants, for proving life's still fun when life's a drag.

Protesting the Protester Protester

"If I didn't know better, I'd swear that the AIDS protesters who have been disrupting services and vandalizing Catholic churches in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles were being paid by some diabolical reactionary group dedicated to discrediting the gay community," begins Randy Shilts's illogical Dec. 18 "AIDS/The Inside Story" *Chronicle* column.

Beginning with that majestic sputter and quickly sliding downhill, Shilts accuses protesters of "embracing a disturbing double standard." As hypothetical proof, he asks readers to imagine "how inflamed the gay community would be if militant Catholics burst into the gay Metropolitan Community Church" and disrupted services—conveniently ignoring the fact that the MCC is not a land-holding, tax-exempt multi-national corporation with a 2,000-year history of oppression against Catholics.

He also ignores basic facts that undermine his muddled argument. He writes that "the gay artists group Boy With Arms Akimbo plastered the front door of St. Mary's Cathedral with posters and red handprints..." Wrong. While the posters carried the Boy logo, no Boy representative officially claimed responsibility for the action.

Furthermore, while the pro-

testers did place posters at St. Mary's in a symbolic gesture, their main action occurred at the archdiocese office on Church Street. The point: to protest that the Church, supposedly a politically neutral entity, was instrumental in the defeat of San Francisco's domestic partners legislation. The point was not, as Shilts maintains, to prevent Catholics from worshipping.

In a blindingly wrongheaded "flip of logic, Shilts then argues that although Church doctrine has historically—and recently—reeked of homophobia, "American Catholics have spent the past two decades largely ignoring their prelates' admonitions against abortion and birth control." Therefore, Shilts contends, these hypocritical Catholics—who conveniently ignore that the institution with which they choose to worship routinely issues psychologically and physically murderous edicts (gays are "sick"; condoms are a no-no in stopping AIDS)—are somehow

(Continued on page 19)

Correction

I realize that my use of quotations marks ("What do you think Christ would have died of in the late 20th century?") in an editorial cartoon in the Dec. 14 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* could be interpreted as suggesting that Father Bob Arpin said this. He did not. This was an interpretation for which I am solely responsible and which I regret. Father Arpin is a hero to me, and my intention was to show that his life, his work in the Church, and his openness are Christlike to me. They were my words, which I dramatized by the use of quotation marks.

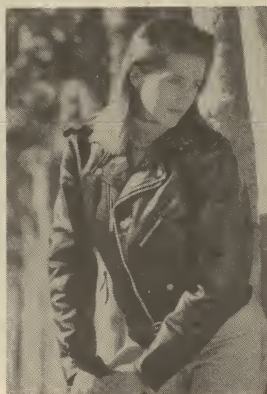
I would also like to express my apology to Charles Clark, whose photographs of Fr. Arpin I used to create the cartoon. His work is incredibly moving. My sole intention was to honor the place of Bob Arpin in our community.

—Kris Kovick

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Sylvester.

(Photo: Mick Hicks)

Friends Irate

'Enquirer' Slams Sylvester

by Allen White

Friends of the late entertainer Sylvester were outraged to see him targeted for ridicule in last week's edition of the *National Enquirer*. Sylvester is tied to a story alleging that Jane Fonda "is living in terror of AIDS." The link, the story claims, is that Baron Matalon, Hollywood hairdresser and one-time lover of Sylvester, has been diagnosed with AIDS and is romantically linked to Fonda.

Incredibly, the story also contains denials from Matalon that he has AIDS and contains a denial from Fonda spokesperson Steve Rivers that a romantic interest exists between Matalon and Fonda.

Beyond their character assassinations, what is infuriating friends of Sylvester is the false information about AIDS published in the story.

"They have taken bits and pieces of truth and made it into this AIDS phobic piece that spreads terror," said Marty Blecman, owner of Megatone Records, Sylvester's label.

The article quotes an unnamed person as saying, "Everything isn't known about AIDS, and some people fear that it can be contracted through even casual contact." It continues, "Scientists don't think so—but with a disease this new and mysterious, who can say for sure?"

"They say we don't know, well we do know. This is 1989. People that read that are horrified,"

According to a paper published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and reported in the *New York Times*, the researchers combined a bone marrow transplant with administration of the anti-HIV drug AZT in an attempt to treat a 41-year-old male patient who had been diagnosed with both AIDS and lymphoma.

Bone marrow transplants are a common treatment for lymphoma.

Blecman said. "That is oh so subtle but it just bashed it into readers' heads they shouldn't be around people who have AIDS. And that is not true, that is not true. We do know you can be around people with AIDS and not get it. We didn't know it in 1983 but we know it in 1989."

The hysterical quotes are from people not named in the story. One says, "Jane told me: 'I feel so helpless. I may be living with a death sentence and the worst part is I may or may not know for months if I have AIDS or not.'"

"If Jane is freaked, she shouldn't be," Blecman said. "Anyone who knows any people who are infected with HIV shouldn't be afraid to be around them. It is like hammering into people they should be afraid."

Near the end of the story Rivers said, "It's ridiculous to assume theirs is anything other than a professional relationship. He cuts her hair," Rivers said. "He was with her in France—he was hired by Columbia Pictures to cut her hair for the Cannes Film Festival."

Blecman summed up his feelings of the piece saying, "Why don't they just say that anyone who ever met Sylvester should be living in fear because they shook his hands. It has almost gone that far. I bet you can't get Jane Fonda to confirm that she was so terrified that she was really going to get AIDS. I really doubt that."

Blecman blasted the *Enquirer*

headline which reads, "Dread Disease Killed his Onetime Lover —A Drag Queen."

"He was not a drag queen," Blecman said. "He was a performer."

In fact, Sylvester was the most notable performer to emerge in the past two decades of San Francisco's growing gay community. Performing at the Elephant Walk at 18th & Castro, he was propelled to stardom with his falsetto voice and highly popular dance recordings. As an entertainer, he performed to sold out crowds in clubs around the world.

As a performer, Sylvester was an expert at costumes—including drag. He was also aware of how to use drag to shock as well as entertain. In fact, his latest recording which was released earlier this month, shows the star frolicking in high heels.

"Sylvester always wanted to be in the *Enquirer*, so in that regard it is a hoot," said Blecman.

Beyond that he and most of Sylvester's other friends are not amused.

Blecman remembers that the 1987 New Year's Eve Joan Rivers Show when Rivers asked Sylvester if he was a drag queen. He bluntly replied, "Joan honey! I am not a drag queen, I am Sylvester."

Sylvester died of AIDS one year ago in December 1988. ▼

Bone Marrow Transplant

HIV Eliminated from Patient

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore have reported the first-ever eradication of the human immunodeficiency virus from a patient's body.

Their enthusiasm was tempered, however by the high cost and the difficulty of the treatment combined with the patient's subsequent death of lymphoma.

According to a paper published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and reported in the *New York Times*, the researchers combined a bone marrow transplant with administration of the anti-HIV drug AZT in an attempt to treat a 41-year-old male patient who had been diagnosed with both AIDS and lymphoma.

Bone marrow transplants are a common treatment for lymphoma.

Researchers said the new bone marrow grew and replaced the old bone marrow, and 32 days after the transplant, the HIV virus was undetectable in the patient's bone marrow or blood.

The patient died, however, 41 days after the transplant. Death was attributed to a recurrence of lymphoma.

An exhaustive autopsy failed to turn up any trace of HIV.

While the new form of treatment provides a measure of hope for researchers and for people with AIDS, its practical applications may be limited. Owing partially to the difficulty of precisely matching tissue types, the demand for bone marrow transplants already far outstrips the supply of donors.

The success of the operation is not universal, and people with AIDS and lymphoma are estimated to have only a 75 percent chance of surviving a transplant. Further, marrow transplants are expensive, with direct costs that can range above \$200,000.

Nonetheless, researchers at Johns Hopkins, at the City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, CA., and at the Hutchinson research center in Seattle have said they will proceed with experimental bone marrow transplant programs for patients with both AIDS and lymphoma. If those experiments are successful, they say they will consider extending the treatment to AIDS patients who do not have lymphomas. ▼

HIV WATCH

AIDS Research Backlash

by Michael C. Botkin

The "AIDS backlash" continues, this week expanding to include the new "AIDS Research backlash," as it was titled in the Sunday edition of the *Examiner/Chronicle*. The argument, greatly simplified, goes like this: money for HIV research has increased ten-fold in the past few years, while money for the favorite diseases of yesteryear, like cancer, has held practically steady. Isn't it time we stopped treating AIDS like a "special" disease and told HIV researchers to take a ticket and get in line with the other researchers?

This argument can stand alone, or it can be followed with some careful grumbling about "special interests"—neo-conservative jargon for any minority, but in this case meaning gays and particularly ACT UP—blackmailing the government for an unfair share of the research pie. It is easily supported by statistics and graphs that show the sharp rise in money spent on HIV. It can even be dressed in pseudo-feminist colors, like the statement I read by an Orange County separatist, which pointed out that more women die from breast cancer than of AIDS. Her conclusion: women should stop getting involved in HIV work.

The body-count logic has two big flaws in it. The first is that it fails to recognize lost "potential life," the second that it fails to acknowledge the law of diminishing returns.

"Potential life" is a federal statistic designed to estimate the cost of disease to society by counting how many "productive years" (all those before the age of 65) are lost. For example, on the average, each heart-disease death represents a loss of 1.9 years of potential life, and each cancer death a loss of 3.7 years of potential life. This is because these diseases tend to hit late in life.

A typical HIV death, on the other hand, represents a loss of 27.2 years of potential life. So even though the body count of cancer deaths for the last year outnumbers HIV deaths by a margin of 30 to one, the ratio of lost "potential life" from the two diseases is only about three to one. Given the expected rise in HIV deaths, the loss of potential life due to HIV will soon outstrip the loss due to cancer. This doesn't even take into account the number of children currently infected with HIV, who will die in the next few years, each representing something like 60 years of lost potential life.

Aside from this, and from the fact that AIDS deaths are continuing to double annually while cancer and heart disease death rates remain stable, each dollar spent on HIV research will save more lives than the same money spent on cancer. This is because of the law of diminishing returns.

Cancer has been a major focus of medical research for years. The obvious work has already been done, and there are unlikely to be any major breakthroughs anytime soon. If this country were serious about fighting cancer, it would pass tough environmental legislation and stop the industrial pollution that causes half of all cancers. But this is a solution with heavy social and political costs, so instead we pour money—lots of money—into high-tech, high-cost treatments that will never "trickle down" to most of the people who need it. In terms of lives saved, millions of dollars—more or less—spent on cancer research is unlikely to make much difference.

HIV is a terrifyingly new disease. Most of the research work still needs to be done, and every day saved means that hundreds of lives will be saved. The advent of

(Continued on page 19)

AIDS Briefs

AIDS Activists Meet with Lyphomed

Responding to a recent "consensus letter" from a host of AIDS advocacy organizations, representatives from Lyphomed Pharmaceuticals, manufacturers of the pneumonia prophylaxis aerosolized pentamidine, held a preliminary meeting with five AIDS activists in Washington Dec. 12 on the price of their AIDS treatment drug. "It was one of the more fascinating meetings any of us have ever had with a pharmaceutical company," stated Peter Staley, a representative of ACT UP/New York. For two and a half hours, Lyphomed officials reportedly discussed their pricing of the drug, marketed as Nebupent by the Rosemont, Ill.-based company, attributing the drug's inflated price to their financial commitment to research and development of aerosol pentamidine and other AIDS drugs. Company officials also presented the activists with their detailed proposal for a future price reduction of the drug. The AIDS activists agreed to examine the proposal for a week and then contact the company to discuss it further. The two sides have now pledged to meet on an "aggressive timetable," agreeing to schedule another meeting for early January.

—Cliff O'Neill

Volunteers Sought for AZT, ddC Study

Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center and the UC San Francisco-affiliated VA Medical Center are seeking volunteers with AIDS or advanced ARC for a two-year study comparing AZT with low-dose ddC. Veterans and non-veterans are eligible. Participants will receive either standard-dose AZT or low-dose ddC, plus monthly aerosolized pentamidine—a drug that helps prevent the pneumocystis pneumonia commonly associated with AIDS. All study related care and treatments are free. The researchers hope to determine whether low-dose ddC may be safer and more effective than AZT (zidovudine), which was approved in 1987 for use against AIDS or severe ARC after a multicenter study found that the drug helped prevent complications and prolong life. For more information, call Karen Taylor at Mount Zion 885-7432 or Bill Stanton at the VAMC 221-4810, ext. 3224.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Time for Meaningful Police Reform

It has not been a good year for the San Francisco Police Department. Early last spring Police Chief Frank Jordan made a mockery of the concept of civilian oversight by killing disciplinary charges that had been sought by the Office of Citizen Complaints in the case of an officer who allegedly beat a protester, rupturing her spleen.

Later in the year, it was revealed that the chief's brother, Deputy Chief Jack Jordan, had clogged the wheels of justice by approving the removal of an important memo from the personnel file of that officer.

Throughout 1989, the department has suffered under the shadow of the Smoot case, in which a group of homicide detectives is being prosecuted for allegedly mishandling the investigation into the 1987 murder of a gay man.

Finally, there was the Castro sweep, in which an over-armed paramilitary squadron rushed a crowd of civilians, clubbed demonstrators and bystanders, and held Castro street residents and business patrons captive indoors for prolonged periods.

It's no wonder people have been asking whether the SFPD is out of control.

Finally, however, Mayor Art Agnos has started taking encouraging steps toward instituting real reform. His appointments to seats on the Police Commission of John Keker, the former Iran-Contra gate prosecutor, and of Gwenn Craig, the longtime black lesbian activist, have restored a sense that the commission can be a viable body that may actually be able to lead the police department, rather than the other way around.

Chief Jordan's recent attempts to appease critics also have been encouraging, but they do not go nearly far enough. Shuffling police captains and forcing the early retirement of his brother will be mere cosmetic changes unless serious reform is instituted on a systematic level.

Among the issues that need to be addressed are these:

- Crowd control procedures: Again, the Police Commission has made a good start by barring plainclothes officers from making arrests in crowds except under very specific conditions.
- Police management practices.
- Improvement in training procedures. What sort of sensitivity is being instilled in the police academy toward gays, women, ethnic minorities, and protesters? Officer Lea Militello, the department's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, has assumed a visible role on this issue and has already gotten an increase in AIDS-related training from a half hour to four hours. She deserves more support.
- Discrimination on the force. Last year the police department adopted a progressive policy prohibiting discrimination against women, gays, and ethnic minorities. Its provisions need to be enforced.
- Promotion of officers to make the leadership of the department reflect as closely as possible the demographics of the city. This means



THEY ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS YEAR. THEY ARE JUST GOING TO DECORATE THE BUSHES.

that those who, until recent years, have been excluded from the department—gays, women, and ethnic minorities—should be promoted as rapidly as possible to command positions. (At present the highest-ranking gay person in the department is a sergeant—fully five ranks below the chief.) More immediately, Chief Jordan should point a new direction by choosing a deputy chief who has demonstrated a real concern for the issues faced by gays, women, and minorities.

- Increased accountability. Start by revising the chain of authority in disciplinary matters. The chief of police should not be in a position to squelch OCC disciplinary findings.

Mayor Agnos has a difficult job ahead of him, satisfying his liberal constituency while avoiding, as much as possible, counterproductive alienation of the conservative rank and file of the police force. Instituting meaningful reform will be a delicate process in a town whose police have not always closely adhered to the rule or spirit of law. For its part, the police department is having a genuinely difficult time updating its procedures and attitudes to match those of San Francisco's citizenry. Its leadership deserves encouragement as it strives to meet that goal. If all else fails, however, it may eventually prove necessary to search outside the department for new, more imaginative blood.

In the meantime, it will be necessary for sincere critics of current police practices to keep up the pressure. The gay political leadership, for example, should be doing far more to follow up on the Smoot case—police officers pack the hearings, while our community is nowhere to be seen.

What it boils down to is this: San Francisco can no longer afford a small-town mentality in law enforcement. It's time for the quality of the police department to match the greatness of the city. ▼

GUEST OPINION

The Beauty of Discrimination

by Edwin Williams

I write this with a great feeling of sadness and loss, for myself, for my friends and for my city. When I moved here from Alabama four years ago after completing law school, I sincerely believed that I had moved to an island of tolerance and civility, and away from an area of the country where being just a little different is viewed with the utmost hostility and disdain. I was reared by a Catholic mother and a Southern Baptist father, and I was sent to Catholic school in Georgia when I was a small child. It was there that I truly learned of intolerance and man's inhumanity to his fellow man. I was abused by the nuns and priests at that school, and ridiculed for being different by those other "persecuted" little Catholic children, who, like their parents, only knew the meaning of persecution if it applied to them, or if it was convenient to use to get unneeded sympathy. I thought I had left all such self-pitying bunk behind. I was dead wrong. On Election Day, with the open "blessing" and financial backing of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco, led by a man arrogant enough to call himself an heir of the Apostles of Jesus of Nazareth, and even Reverend (Archbishop Quinn), Proposition S was narrowly defeated. Proposition S was simply a matter of human dignity, but the Catholic Church and its unholy "fundamentalist" allies turned it into some us-versus-them campaign against the gay and lesbian community of this city.

The Archbishop and his allies said that this proposed ordinance

struck at the heart of our society and perverted Christian family values. The only thing that was perverted in this debate was the Archbishop and his unholy allies' logic, and lack of basic human feeling. All we ask of them is the tolerance that Roman Catholics and these so-called fundamentalists request, nay even beg for, when they are in the minority. It is more than just a tolerance of "we want to be left alone." It is a tolerance which says: We accept your beliefs and your lifestyle because we live in a free and open society, and because if we begin making exceptions as to which group we will tolerate, and which group we will not tolerate, we all will soon be living in a totalitarian society where none of us is tolerated. I disagree with Archbishop Quinn and his allies' beliefs and lifestyles. I do not wish to impose mine upon them. I would demand that the Archbishop or his Church bless my marriage to another man. But as a member of this free and open society, the constitution of which guarantees freedom of religion, speech and the press, I would like to be able to assume the same respect from him and his followers as I give to them.

I am the son of a Southern WASP whose ancestors fought in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. I am delighted that they won the former and lost the latter. Until I came out of the closet, I never really knew what discrimination was all about. On Nov. 7, I learned a big lesson in how helpless it really is. I sincerely hope that Archbishop Quinn and his allies never have to learn this lesson the way I and my gay brothers and sisters did on Nov. 7. ▼

Black and Gay Relations

★ The Nov. 7 election brought tremendous gains to blacks and major defeats to gays. After hearing the results, I wasn't surprised to learn that most gays voted for the black candidates and most blacks voted against gay rights.

Even in San Francisco, the black leadership continues to make remarks like "Gays have gained freedom from the backs of the Blacks," and "If it wasn't for Dr. King there would never have been a gay rights movement, but gays don't give him credit for it."

Whenever there are discussions on civil rights or discrimination, there is strong resentment from blacks if gay rights are mentioned or if someone compares the oppression of gays to that of blacks.

Our beloved Supervisor Willie Kennedy, enjoys pitting the black and gay communities against each other. She uses as her argument against gay rights legislation "gays can pass, but blacks can't hide," implying that blacks have it worse.

I've got news for her; many gays can't pass and many who can don't want to hide. Blacks see all gays as rich, white males who are responsible for their own oppression by refusing to stay in the closet.

They constantly urge us to study black history, but obviously blacks haven't studied the history of other cultures.

If they did, they would realize that among the original inhabitants of what is now the United States (Native Americans, Eskimos, Hawaiians), there were many gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. We were here before Europeans discovered America, and before blacks were brought to our shores.

Each year, thousands of immigrants are sworn in as citizens and given full rights, yet the native-born gay citizens are having their rights taken away and their freedoms restricted.

Where is the black leadership and the black community when it comes to gay rights, AIDS discrimination and helping PWAs? They are still in the closet, denying they are gay and bisexual blacks and denying that AIDS is a problem in their community. Their attitude is "don't bother us with that gay shit; we have our own problems."

It seems to me that until blacks acquire the same power and money as whites, they will not only be reluctant to work with other oppressed groups, but will try to stand in the way of their making any gains.

Joe Reilly
San Francisco

Credit for the Loss

★ Let us hope that when it comes time to take bows for the loss of Proposition S, the juveniles who dreamed up the Golden Gate Bridge blockade and the Opera opening night demonstration will take their share of the "credit." They made sure that many straight people would turn anti-gay on Election Day.

Two separate straight friends of mine made it clear to me that they voted against Prop. S as a protest against the actions of a handful of people who claim to speak for all gay people. These friends are liberal people whose Pro-S vote could have been guaranteed—so I thought.

I find some gay friends that also know straight people who voted against Prop. S because they don't like demonstrations that hurt and inconvenience people.

In politics, it is suicide to punish your friends and reward your enemies. These childish demonstrations must stop. They are counter-productive when they alienate the very people who should be voting pro-gay.

Don Rotan
San Francisco

A Liberal Denomination

★ In your article on Liz Huesemann and gay youth finding the holidays a depressing time (Nov. 23), you state, "Huesemann's father was a minister in the United Church of Christ, a fairly rigid denomination." Whether this viewpoint is Huesemann's or the writer's ("As a result of her strict upbringing..."), I find it hard to believe that the United Church of Christ is a "fairly rigid denomination."

I have been a member of the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) for nearly a decade, and consider the U.C.C. to be one of the most liberal Protestant denominations.

Indeed, this denomination traces its roots from the great traditions of the Protestant Reformation—Lutheran, Calvinist and Congregational—traditions brought to the New World by Protestants fleeing persecution in Europe, from the Mayflower people onward. The Congregational and Reformed movements are credited with developing our democratic form of government; the Mayflower Compact and the New England town meeting used by the early Congregationalists did much to teach democratic self-government.

The United Church of Christ is a non-hierarchical, non-authoritarian church. Congregationalist thought, known at the turn of the century as *enlightened liberalism*, holds that every person has the capacity for both good and evil and that it is the responsibility of the institutions of society, especially the church, to inspire the good and to help each individual conquer the evil.

First Congregational Church of San Francisco, of which I am an active member, has established among its mission priorities, focus on peace and justice, "the homeless poor, sufferers of AIDS and support of the arts" in San Francisco.

First Congregational Church of San Francisco, as the back of its church program states, "not only respects but welcomes diversity in gender, national origin, sexual preference, income and profession." This local church is also an "open and affirming" church of persons of gay and bisexual orientation.

Allen Gardiner
Hayward

A Witchhunt at the Milk Club

★ On Nov. 28, I attended a Milk Club meeting scheduled to discuss election results, and featuring several local media personalities. However, what actually occurred was an unnoticed witchhunt instigated by Maurice Belote. This mean-spirited and destructive display went on for 90 minutes, so that invited guests, who were forced to wait throughout the spectacle, were only allowed to speak five minutes.

The subject of this temper tantrum was Rick Hauptman, vice president for political affairs, a hard-working alliance builder who is greatly admired in the neighborhood and minority communities and our own. We need alliances to win elections. Yet the Milk Club, and in unprecedented step, censured him because he could not (in good conscience) follow the dictates of their skewed endorsement process. Nine years of devoted service notwithstanding.

The club has no rules for censoring an officer, nor rules governing the process he was charged with subverting. After a six-month expedition, the audit committee found "nothing substantially" amiss with former Treasurer Hauptman's books. A letter from the current treasurer praising him as the "best" in a long line of incompetents was not allowed to be read. The allegations were not accompanied with evidence, nor was he given any time to prepare a reply. No democratic processes were allowed to interfere with the job at hand. In a room full of lawyers, only one, John Wahl, spoke against the railroading. Robert Barnes (an adult) even hissed during Hauptman's disheartened denial of the charges.

How was this handled by the press? Reporter Allen White tied it up with headlines about the audit, which were not even mentioned by Belote—who was rewarded with a photo of himself, looking so cute and helpless (which he does so well). After writing three articles about the Hauptman censure, City Hall Wannabe White has yet to interview the public servant whose career he so gleefully attempts to destroy.

Douglas Comstock
San Francisco

Studying Suicide

★ As a social worker, and as a gay man, I am concerned about the lack of information about and awareness of the high rate of suicide (contemplated, attempted, completed) in gay and lesbian youth, a situation with which I have so often been confronted in my practice.

I have found a few journal and newspaper articles; and, of course, there is Eric E. Rofes' valuable book, *I Thought People Like That Killed Themselves*. Rarely, however, in non-gay texts or in training manuals about suicide prevention—or, for that matter, in the curricula of social work or counseling education programs—have I seen evidence of sensitivity to the social and psychological consequences, for gay and lesbian youth, of homophobia and of its relationship to their suicidality.

Consequently, I have decided to devote my M.S.W. thesis to this topic. As well, I intend to publish my findings.

To these ends, I am asking you to share with me your own perceptions and/or awareness of this situation and respectfully request that you forward to me any material on the subject—e.g. anecdotal information, research data, conference transcripts, etc.—which you think would be valuable to this research and our community. I assure you that I will properly credit sources and respect confidentiality.

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving information and assistance.

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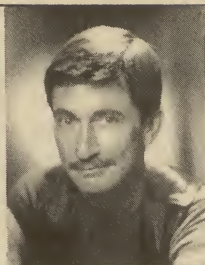
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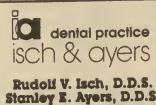
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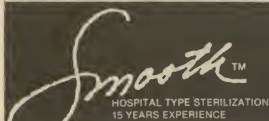
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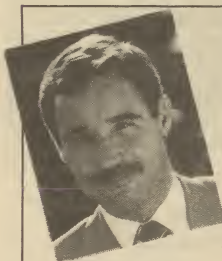
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LETTERS

It's Up to Us

★ I, too, wish to thank you for the eight-page section of photos in your Nov. 16, issue. It brought back many memories of the 30 or more friends that I have lost to AIDS. I also miss Sylvester who died just about a year ago. His voice may live on, but nothing can replace the love that came from his eyes when he sang.

I sent the section to the White House, to Mrs. Bush, as I have received personal responses from her often. I pointed out to her that for each picture there were at least four more not pictured and numerous family and friends who are still "hurting" and grieving. I wish that each week the obituary column could be sent there—so that they can never forget.

I think we, as the "gay community," need to stop our pickiness and pettiness—our power plays and let's-get-even attitudes—and get on with the business of loving each other and caring for one another. Sometimes I wonder if there should even be a gay parade, as there is so much need for the money to be spent elsewhere.

As we approach the New Year, may we re-dedicate ourselves to "being one" again—to being a little bit more patient with each other and a little less demanding when someone we know or do business with makes a mistake. Instead of drowning our sorrows in alcohol and other escapes, let's face the reality that it's up to us to make the difference. It's up to us to be "brothers and sisters" again.

Bryan Lovness
San Francisco

Dance Party

★ I read the article on KOFY's Jim Gabbert (Nov. 30) with sad amusement re: the no same-sex partners on Dance Party. What GLAAD and Gabbert don't know is that same-sex couples have already appeared not only on Dance Party but also on the Country-Western Dance Party.

This was all accomplished a year ago. Knowing Gabbert's and hence TV20's closet policy, we decided the time had come to "integrate" the shows, albeit in drag. Our only problem was that to succeed we knew we'd have to do "dowdy drag" to blend in with the regulars. Looking pretty would definitely have made us stand out in the crowd. It worked like a charm, but one "cowgirl" almost blew our cover when she discovered there are no urinals in the ladies room—so she peed in the sink while pretending to wash the hem of her skirt!!

On one show, we found ourselves in the midst of an invited dance club representing "Casa de Fruta!" How ironic! While Gabbert and many of the TV20 crew can be found at our own gay discos and country-western dance bars, they object to us being represented on the air. With that attitude, Rosa Parks would still be riding on the back of the bus.

It's the same old sad game—money. Power. Gabbert worries about Kellogg's pulling out, while their own executives refuse to comprehend the negative influence of Nut 'N' Honey advertising. Kellogg's should not have dropped TV20—Gabbert should've kicked them out. Ah, money and power.

Penney Poole
San Francisco

Gays and Marriage

★ Syndicated advice columnist Ann Landers has asked what her readers think about "legal sanctions for same-sex couples." To communicate your support for the rights of gay and lesbian couples, write to Ann Landers, c/o *The Chicago Tribune*, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

Here's what we told Ms. Landers:

We think lesbians and gay men should be able to legally marry. In our view, it's a matter of civil rights. Not to mention simple fairness and good sense.

Too often, gay and lesbian relationships have been attacked as antithetical to "family values." Nothing could be further from the truth. Gay and lesbian couples—and their children—are genuine families. They share with all families the traditional values of love, caring and mutual support.

The truth is, gay and lesbian couples are already marrying one another in both religious and secular ceremonies. According to preliminary results of our national survey of gay and lesbian couples, 16 percent of female couples and 10 percent of male couples had "ritualized their relationship with a ceremony." More than one-third had executed legal agreements to protect their relationship. [Results based on 812 respondents.]

Unfortunately, these couples cannot choose to legally marry and depend on existing laws to support their family life. The legal contracts we make can replicate only some of the protections that are automatic with marriage. Just one example: A widowed lesbian cannot claim her departed spouse's Social Security benefits.

And this inequity is far-reaching. At least 10 million Americans are in same-sex relationships, judg-

ing from a recent *San Francisco Examiner* poll that found 60 percent of gay men and lesbians in relationships.

Our society should support these gay and lesbian families for the same reasons we support traditional families. Functional families make better neighbors and more productive citizens.

Stevie Bryant and Demian, Ed.D.
Publishers/Editors
PARTNERS: The Newsletter
for Gay & Lesbian Couples
Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109

A Beef

The following was sent to James W. Near, President, Wendy's International, Inc., P.O. Box 256, Dublin, OH 43017.

★ Mr. Near:

It has come to my attention through the San Francisco chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation that Wendy's received complaints from the "American Family Association" (AFA) because Wendy's advertised on a rerun of an episode of NBC's *L.A. Law* in which two gay characters were portrayed. One character in this episode was an Olympic athlete who sued a cereal company for canceling his ad contract after the company learned he was gay; the other gay character was a "closeted" judge.

I saw that episode, and I must conclude that a complaint over the depiction of two believable gay characters involved in familiar issues of bigotry is itself motivated by bigotry.

More troubling is the news that Wendy's responded to the AFA with a letter that seems to indicate that Wendy's shares this bigotry. The letter states, in part: "Obviously, the particular episode...was not consistent with the kind of programming we wish to be associated with...Wendy's tries to sponsor programs we feel have a wide appeal to the family viewing audience."

The irony of the parallel between the episode and the correspondence in question apparently escapes both the AFA and Wendy's. Wendy's letter implies that Wendy's feels that the families of gay and lesbian people—their parents, siblings, partners and children—are not important members of the television viewing audience, and are unimportant to Wendy's business.

I know that Wendy's gives its television sponsorships serious thought and consideration, and I applaud Wendy's original decision to support fairness and accuracy in the media by supporting the episode in question. Popular opinion and the law will continue to overcome discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the media will continue to recognize and reflect these changes.

I urge you to stand firm in the face of bigotry and ensure that Wendy's does what's right as well as what's prudent.

Sincerely

Bennett Carlson
San Francisco

Racism on Christmas Cards

★ Having mustered the motivation to get to the Music System at 9:00 a.m. this morning, I happened to overhear two guys talking about a Christmas card one of them had seen at Does Your Mother Know on 18th Street.

The card apparently depicts a black Nativity scene with a woman holding up a baby with the greeting: "What Child Be Dis?"

The discussion of the card made its way around the gym with bursts of laughter at each re-telling.

I approached the guy who had seen the card and asked him what he found so funny. Taken slightly aback, he said, "Well, I just think it's a funny card, that's all."

I wonder if a card was seen in a fictitious card shop in Hunters Point depicting a gay Nativity scene with all of the men covered with KS lesions and dressed in drag with the greeting, "What Queer is This?" what would the reaction be? Would there be outcries of homophobia and demands for action?

After all, doesn't straight society (whatever that means) perceive that all gay men, especially those in San Francisco, have AIDS and dress in drag?

I fail to see even a trace of humor from a card that perpetuates a stereotype against a group—any group.

Right now, there aren't many people out there offering us support (fewer by the day, it seems) and I wonder whether we can afford the "luxury" of racism—even if it's just on a Christmas card.

Rick Gitlin
San Francisco

The Suicide Report

The following letter was sent to Secretary Louis Sullivan, US Department of Health and Human Services, The Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 21202

★ Dear Dr. Sullivan:

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, founded in 1977 and currently comprised of over 200 physician members, is concerned and puzzled over your reported comments concerning Paul Gibson's report on teenage suicide among gay and lesbian youth.

Mr. Gibson's study, "Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide," has been widely praised as a factual and fair analysis of this growing problem, and the toll it exacts on individual lives and families. Our organization does not understand the basis for your reported disavowal of this paper and its recommendations.

Does your response imply that you are not concerned with the growing number of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth who are at risk of suicide? Does your response indicate a belief that the institution of the family is best supported by allowing to go unattended the misunderstanding and ignorance with which gay and lesbian youth often must struggle within their own families of origin? Does your response reflect a belief that the loving and committed family-relationship which many gays and lesbians have come to enjoy are outside the American family, and that their existence is somehow a threat to the idea of "family"?

We hope that your comments may have been taken out of context and do not truly reflect your beliefs on these matters. Our organization would like clarification from you. We are hopeful of being reassured that the policies of the U.S. D.H.H.S. are based upon educated and objective medical-social realities, not political bias, and that these policies are inclusive of all Americans, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

We eagerly await your reply.

Yours truly,

Richard L. Andrews, M.D., President
Robert C. Scott, M.D., Vice President
Kenneth J. Mills, M.D., Secretary
Leonard A. Simpson, M.D., Treasurer
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

File A Claim

★ As a result of the military occupation of the Castro District by the San Francisco Police Department on Oct. 6, the October 6 Justice Project has been formed. The project consists of activists, victims of police misconduct and lawyers who have volunteered their services to help people gain redress.

We believe that one way to end police misconduct is to increase the political and financial cost of continuing it. Therefore, we are urging anyone who was harassed or injured by the police to file a claim against the city. This includes people who were imprisoned in establishments when the police declared martial law and cleared the sidewalks. The purpose of such a claim is to demand compensation for the physical, emotional and constitutional injuries caused by the outrageous actions of the police.

We will mail a claim form and an information sheet to anyone who calls us at 267-3006.

Brian Bringardner
for the October 6 Justice Project
San Francisco

Never Forget

★ Enough crying and finger-pointing. We gained more by losing on domestic partners than we would have had Proposition S passed, if we heed the lesson.

Gays overwhelmingly voted for the Americans English-Only initiative a couple of years ago, stripping the Asian and Hispanic communities of their civil rights. It really didn't matter to mono-lingual gays or blacks or Anglos, but it was dear to Asians and Hispanics. They didn't have the votes alone to defend themselves, so they were overwhelmed despite the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which ceded California, Texas, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona to the U.S., which guarantees the right of Mexican-Americans in perpetuity to practice the Roman Catholic faith and speak the Spanish language without interference. Our Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of speech, not just speech in English. Yet we voted to force people against their will to speak English only.

Gays ridiculed the Holy Father on his visit to our city, a predominantly Catholic city outside the gay, black and Asian neighborhoods. Do you think Catholics have so quickly forgotten the insults hurled at John Paul II?

Do you think they were amused by Sister Boom Boom's desecration of the holy habit which Mother Teresa and thousands like her honor by their good deeds and hard labor? When the most important things in life are threatened or denigrated, you never forget.

E. Alderete
San Francisco

Modifying Prop. S

★ I guess it's time for me to write another politically incorrect letter. Speaking of domestic partnership, we bemoan the fact that Proposition S lost, and that it is a dark day for gay rights. Not having seen either a summary or the full text of this piece of legislation, I believe it had a fatal flaw. Let me explain.

No doubt originally designed for the gay community who cannot legally marry, the authors wanted to generalize and wrote in terms of "unmarried couples," including heterosexuals, who can legally "tie the knot." However, as I understand it, the latter don't have to, to obtain the benefits under S. In this case, they would be getting it both ways, benefits of a relationship without the responsibility of commitment. This seems to be the essence of the opposition as expressed by a priest of No on S, and it *does* hold water. I can understand how this would be viewed as "undermining traditional values": fidelity and responsibility (which should never go out of style) should be "the price to pay" for those privileges.

Maybe now (or soon) somebody or group should modify Prop. S and submit an improved version of it, specifying, for instance, that unmarried parties who *can't* be wed by state standards, should be allowed benefits, on the assumption (I hope true) that they would if they *were* allowed.

Barry West
Sunnyvale, CA

Favorite Correspondents

★ The first thing I do when I pick up my copy of B.A.R. every week, is turn to the lively and diverse Letters/Open Forum section. However, I've noticed that some of my favorite letter writers, whose insightful letters in the past have appeared with frequency in B.A.R. and other local newspapers, haven't had any letters published for quite some time. What ever happened to some of my favorites, such as James Gibbons, Ed Dollak, Arthur Evans, Jon Sugar, John Dolan, Brett McCabe, Dean Goodman, Michael Delaney and Jan Allen, to name a few? The letters to the editor from the aforementioned individuals always make for interesting reading, for they cover important issues of interest to the gay and lesbian community at large.

Some form of recognition should be given to these courageous letter writers, for they, too, are an important and integral part of the gay and lesbian rights movement.

The saying "the pen is mightier than the sword," couldn't be more true when applied to the above letter writers.

You're indeed a great paper, B.A.R. Best wishes for continued success. Keep up the good work!

Roger LeMesurier
San Francisco

Work for Respect

★ The defeat of Proposition S is not something that can be attributed to one group or race. Let's stop kidding ourselves—the gays are just as much to blame as are the fundamentalists and other groups who voted against us. True, on the one hand, we have the bigoted, narrow-minded and self-righteous Christian phony who feel it their appointed duty to dictate how others will live. They will always be around, so it's up to the gay community to neutralize the efforts of those who would work against us.

And then we have the gays themselves—many times our own worst enemy. Just a few more votes was all that was needed—not much to ask. We were just too caught up in ourselves and our narrow little lifestyles to go to the polls and vote for one of the most important issues we'll ever face.

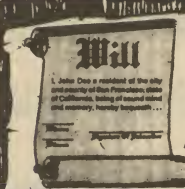
I am a new resident of San Francisco and did not register in time to vote and I will have to live with that forever.

So many of us gays are so preoccupied with trying to be so elegant and with worrying where our next trick is coming from that we don't look past our noses. We choose to blame this one or that one for our shortcomings.

They say charity begins at home, so let's treat ourselves as respectable members of society instead of a bunch of piss-elegant bystanders who wait on the sidelines for the favors to be handed out.

There are no favors; we must work for the respect that we hope for.

Warren Pender
San Francisco



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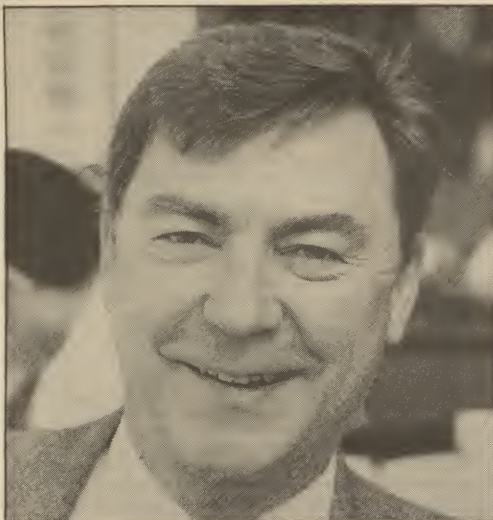
The National Commission on AIDS, the American Bar Association, the international societies of the Red Cross, the World Federation of Hemophilia, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Sixth International Conference on AIDS Committee were among the groups asking the federal government last week to drop its policy of barring people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus from entering the United States unless they get a special waiver.

The National Commission said the policy, which forces those who are HIV-positive to declare themselves infected and get a stamp indicating that fact on their passports, was "counterproductive, discriminatory and a waste of resources." The commission, an independent panel made up of members appointed by Congress and the White House, was created to advise Congress and the president on the development of a "national consensus on policy" concerning the AIDS epidemic.

Meanwhile, in an "emergency" letter to the White House last week, the AIDS Commission opened a campaign to persuade

American leaders to "match rhetoric with action" in helping to contain the dreadful AIDS epidemic. The letter is seen as a timely nudge for President George Bush to provide national leadership on the epidemic. Commenting on the early report to the president (it was not due until August), the influential *Los Angeles Times* editorialized that the early report to Bush was important because "members felt the need for 'extraordinary measures,' a quicker mobilization of the nation. We agree. And we look now to President Bush, with confidence encouraged by his past statements on the epidemic, for vigorous leadership."

The scandal grows deeper: it seems Lincoln Savings & Loan boss Charles Keating passed the big bucks out to everyone. Now it's Pete Wilson, the would-be Republican governor. Wilson received at least \$16,500 (small potatoes compared to the million or so Alan Cranston received) in campaign contributions from Keating, according to newly released contribution reports, though Wilson says he doesn't remember ever meeting the S&L boss.



Sup. Richard Hongisto.

(Photo: Rink)

This week the Associated Press reported that Senators Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) and Alan Cranston, two of the "Keating Five" now under federal investigation, made last-minute appeals urging top thrift regular M. Danny Wall to sell—not seize—Lincoln Savings & Loan after being lobbied on behalf of the owner and a potential buyer. Senatorial aides said the senators were only trying to save taxpayers' money and jobs at Lincoln. Senator Cranston, under California party pressure not to seek re-election as a result of the scandal, of course again denied any wrongdoing.

Cranston, meanwhile, long a favorite of the liberal Democratic party in San Francisco, received hardly a notice when he walked into a hotel ballroom packed with Democrats in the city last Wednesday evening, but the 500 or so party workers loudly applauded Rep. Nancy Pelosi, one of those pointedly encouraging Cranston not to run again.

Say it isn't so, Tammy. Ex-tele-vangelist Jim Bakker, serving 45 years for fraud, is spending the holidays at his new job as an 11-cents-an-hour janitor at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minn.

The aforementioned Nancy Pelosi, incidentally, must be thought of a big player in national Demo politics. There she was Sunday debating the likes of Henry Kissinger on a national Cable News Network show on the Bush administration's recent

overtures to China.

A newly created group in Concord, Citizens for an Economic Response to Bigotry, called this week on gays and lesbians there to boycott Concord businesses in the wake of the defeat of that city's AIDS anti-discrimination law. A spokesperson for the group said the boycott was in response to the Chamber of Commerce's support of Measure D last month, which repealed the anti-discrimination ordinance.



Sen. Pete Wilson.

(Photo: Rink)

In New Jersey, the Newark Episcopal diocese ordained gay activist Robert Williams, 34, as a priest Saturday, an act that challenges a 1979 church resolution discouraging ordination of gays.

Supervisor Richard Hongisto formally announces his candidacy for the job of assessor. Few politicians have been as consistently supportive of the gay and lesbian community as Honigsto has been from the very day he entered public life. Not only will

he be a good assessor, I think he'd make a great mayor one day.

Monday is Christmas Day, and the beginning of a new decade is only days away. I'd like to wish a happy holiday season and a healthier, more prosperous New Year to some of my friends and those people who in one way or another help make this world a little better. Warm holiday greetings to: George Burgess; Randy Shilt; Harry Britt; Jack and Louise Molinari; Tom Horn; Dennis Collins; Angela Alioto; Arlo and Helen Smith; John Robertson; Connie O'Connor and Becky Benoit; Dick and Elizabeth Hongisto; Doris Ward; Ron Huberman; Jack Fricks and Robert Hines; Bill Maher; and Mayor Art Agnos.

Also, Carole Migden; Kevin Shelley; Allen White; Cleve Jones; Dick Pabich; Jim Rivaldo; Randy Alfred; everyone at the New Bell; Jeff Brown; Herb Donaldson; Ken Cady and David; Cecil Williams and Jan; Ace Smith and Laura Talmus; Hank Fattorusso; Jane Howell; Ellen Chaitin and V. Roy Lefcourt; Kevin Wadsworth and Paul Johnson; the gang at the Gangway; Supervisor Tom Nolan; Mike Hennessy; Larry Eppinette; Paul Melbostadt and Maurice Belote; Jean Harris; Chris Bowman; Barbara Boxer; Milton and Carolene Marks; Anne Daley; Julie Tang; Dianne Feinstein; Anthony Garrett and Carol Klingler; Mike Housh and Rick Pacurer; Tim Wolfred; and Todd Dickinson.

Also, Scott Shafer; Michael Bernick; Jim Gonzalez; Willie Brown; Jackie Speier; Sharon McNight; Ruth Brinker; Jerry Brown; Mark Luko; Ron Kershaw; Dana Van Corder; Larry Hughes; Gardner, Ed and Hector; Gina Moscone; Paul Wotman; Richmond Young; Carol Ruth Silver; George and June Banda; Jo Daly; Randy Winbigler; Gwenn Craig; Cheryl Crane and Josh LeRoy; Hadley and Susie Roff; Steve Cox; Sam and Betty Duca; Ron Albers; Mick Ridolfi; Herb Caen; Jim Bonko; Claire Pilcher; Ray Benson; Linda Post; Mary Morgan; Neil and Sue Eisenberg; June Starling; Teddy Hirschfield; Jack Davis; Michael O'Mally; Dixon; and Morris Kight.

Also, Armistead Maupin; Rob Morse; Wendy Nelder; JoAnne Miller; Terence Hallinan; Bob Golovich; Jerry, Pat and the staff of the Galleon; Totie and Russ; Roger Hall; Kathy Stephenson; Joe Roland; Bird, Mar and everyone at Mueller's Deli; Paul Walliker; Brian Mavrogeorge; Nancy Pelosi; Jim Hormel; Dr. Ed Peter; John Burton; Marcus Conant; everyone at the Bay Area Reporter and so many more that I have inadvertently left off this list. A healthy, happy, loving holiday season to all, and an even better New Year. ▼

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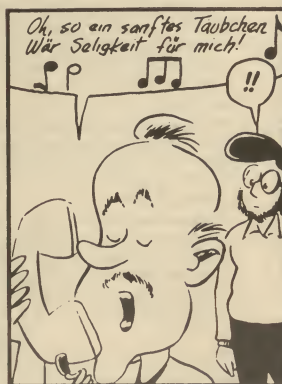


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MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

MERRY CHRIS\$TMA\$

by Mike Hippler

Like it or not, Christmas means shopping—which wouldn't be so bad if I could spend my money on myself. Unfortunately, I've got to spend it on other people. Even then, it wouldn't be so bad if only I knew what to buy. I like giving gifts, really I do. But why waste money on something no one needs, wants or appreciates?

To solve this problem in advance of December 25, I demand detailed lists from my family and friends. This way, I make everyone happy in the most cost-effective manner. But it all seems a little absurd. Where is the fun, the surprise, the magic? Besides, no matter how hard I try, I always run into unrelated difficulties. This year, as in years past, the major problems were ethical ones.

The adults on my list caused the least of these. When one sister asked for perfume or china, and the other asked for earrings or picture frames, what difference did it make for me? Sure, it might have been more politically correct to have asked for a contribution to Amnesty International, but hey, I'm as greedy as the next person. I understand the joy of avarice no matter what the season (especially when someone else is paying).

The kids, alas, were more difficult, not only because they were greedier than the adults, but also

because their wishes were so specific—and so disturbing. In the past I managed—barely—to get away with gifts which I thought were fun, instructive and relatively harmless—inflatable dinosaurs, geographic jigsaw puzzles and the like. But all they wanted was Transformers and Masters of the Universe toys. I got used to hearing sighs of disappointment.

This year, caving in at last, I said to hell with creativity and asked for instructions. Dylan, the three-year-old, was easiest to please. He wanted an ambulance. Why he wanted it is anyone's guess—the sirens, the flashing lights, the speed? Whatever, it was all he talked about for weeks.

"With or without the accident victims?" I asked my sister.

"It doesn't matter," she replied. "But if you can find a Mickey Mouse doll the right size to drive the thing, that would be nice."

At \$31, the ambulance I found (complete with accident victims smiling and waving from the stretcher) was a little expensive, but at least it was a gift I could give without misgivings—unlike the present I bought Dylan's three-year-old cousin, Jackie.

"Jackie loves to dress up," said my other sister. "I don't know where she gets it from, because I certainly don't, but anything

having to do with pocketbooks, mirrors, kiddie cosmetics—that kind of thing—would be fine."

Kiddie cosmetics? I didn't even know they made such things. And I wasn't pleased when I found out. How could my niece have developed a taste for such traditional, girly-girl crap? Who turned her into such a fem? Where did she learn to be so vain? True, I may have shared the same tastes when I was her age, but that was different—I was a boy.



Although I had severe reservations about encouraging this deranged infatuation, I decided to get Jackie what she wanted. With any luck at all, it would be a passing phase—which is exactly what my parents said about me thirty-some years ago.

I tried to save the day by injecting an element of camp into the picture. Browsing through a used clothes store on Haight Street, I picked out an oversized purse, gaudy scarves and flamboyant jewelry for my niece, so that at least she would have something to wear in San Francisco on Halloween, but the bill was too high. So instead, I bought her a child's vanity set from a nearby toy store—not pink, but blue, thank you very much.

Unfortunately, the older kids get, the more difficult they become. If Jackie's request presented a moral dilemma, I was in for an even greater shock when I asked her older brothers, Yeats and Pierce, what they wanted for Christmas.

"Nintendo!" they screamed. "We've already got the system, but we want you to buy us a game, Mike. We want you to buy us 'Contra.'"

"Sounds dubious, guys," I admitted, "but I'll see what I can do."

Poor Yeats and Pierce. Little did my nephews know how much I despise video games. Wouldn't they rather have a book instead, I wondered, or did they really want to turn into mindless, reactive zombies? Without asking, I knew the answer—zombies. So, because I had promised to buy them what they wanted and not what I thought they *should* have (as long as I could justify it to myself), I searched for "Contra."

It was worse than I thought it would be. The illustration on the box featured a pair of snarling, muscle-bound commandos in camouflage fatigues carrying rapid-fire machine guns. The promotional copy on the back claimed, "Earth's only hope rests with you, a courageous member of the Special Forces elite commando squad." My nephews would "sweat blood" as they carried out their mission. The game was "the ultimate test for the guerilla warrior."

Granted, the enemy was not the freely elected socialist government of Nicaragua but a "vile alien war monger" named Red Falcon. Furthermore, the action

did not take place in Central America but at Mayan temples in the Amazon jungle. (Someone at Nintendo obviously had their anthropological wires crossed.) Still, I simply could not buy a game glorifying guerilla warfare, and I told my sister this on the phone.

"Buying 'Contra,'" I said, "would be tantamount to condoning murder, pillage and rampage."

Without missing a beat, my sister puts the receiver down and shouted, "Boys! Mike can't find 'Contra.' What else do you want?"

"Rampage!" they answered. "Next," I demanded.

We eventually settled on "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," based on the Saturday morning television cartoon of the same name. It was probably nearly as bad as "Contra," but the element of fantasy did make a difference, I reasoned. Besides, something about the game's twisted title appealed to me (even though the game's premise—the transformation of teenagers into turtles; a horrible thing to do to young boys—did not).

I had second thoughts when I examined the back of the box. "Carnivorous robots chow-down in China Town," I read. "Police SWAT Teams can't stop them, but the TMNT can! 'Cause, powered by slices of pizza, they're always ready to rumble!" Players were encouraged to "knock heads with the nasty Ninjitsus, and either splatter them senseless or get yourself turned into turtle soup!"

(Continued on page 13)

Women, Socialist Groups Receive Fascist Threats

by Gregory Douthwaite

A local socialist group has reported receiving obscene phone calls and threats, allegedly from neo-Nazis. In the past two weeks, the Freedom Socialist Party has recorded 24 hate messages.

One caller identified himself as a "White warrior," and said: "We'll fucking wipe you off the face of the Earth, 1, 2, 3." Another threatened, "We're going to blow your place sky-high."

The group is organizing to protect its Mission District office.

"People in our organization are acutely aware of the genocidal goals of the fascists, and we will not be intimidated by their threats," socialist organizer Tom Boot said.

The group has started a citizen's crime watch to protect its Valencia Street headquarters at night. Volunteers sit outside in cars.

The group refuses to call the police about the threats.

"The police will not protect us in a situation like this," said Boot. "The police, especially in San Francisco, are out to smash the radicals. They would come to the defense of the fascists."

The hate messages began after the socialists protested a new-Nazi hotline operated by Tom Metzger, a former leader of the Ku Klux Klan who now directs the White Aryan Resistance.

The socialists passed out hundreds of leaflets in the Bay Area last month, asking people to call the answering service that carries

the Southern California hotline to complain.

Hate messages have also been received by another group, Radical Women, which shares office space and telephone service with the Freedom Socialist Party.

Nancy Kato, a representative of Radical Women, said the hate messages were directed against the socialist feminists because of their high profile in building anti-fascist demonstrations.

"We are leaders in the Ad Hoc Coalition to Stop the Nazi Skinheads, an anti-fascist coalition that formed in the Bay Area to protest the 'Aryan Woodstock' sponsored by Metzger in March of this year in Napa County."

"We won't give an inch to neo-fascist threats. Our political work and organizing in the community will not be stopped," she said.

The hate messages are racist, sexist, homophobic, misogynist and anti-Semitic. They appear to come from four different people, including one woman.

One caller referred to "AIDS-ridden homos and demented sodomites," another to "faggot nigger-loving Jew boys."

Several calls were from someone pretending to be black. One message said: "I want you to lick my black asshole. It would feel so good, honky."

The female caller said, "What's so radical about being a fucking commie dyke? Nothing. You're going to die." ▼

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Episcopals Ordain Gay Man as Priest

On Dec. 16, in All Saints Church in Hoboken, N.J., the Bishop of Newark, the Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, ordained an avowed, non-celibate gay man to the Episcopal priesthood. It was the first such ordination in the United States.

The Rev. Robert Williams, an Episcopal deacon and founding director of The Oasis, a ministry of the diocese with and to gays and lesbians, was the focus of a ceremony with roots 2,000 years old in Christian tradition.

For four years Williams, 34, has been part of an exhaustive process of testing, evaluation and affirmation that has resulted in his qualification and approval for priesthood.

Traditionalists in the church, including a group led by the bishop of Fort Worth, Texas, mounted an intensive campaign against the ordination. On Dec.

13, six bishops of the conservative Episcopal Synod of America urged Spong to "desist from an action deeply offensive" to the Bible and the "vast majority" of Episcopalians.

During the ceremony a man in a clerical collar shouted out that the event was "an abomination to the Lord." He was escorted from the church.

Later, Elaine Sullivan of Hackensack read a statement saying that the ordination was not in conformity to the teachings of the Holy Scripture.

Williams was then ordained as more than 20 priests laid their hands on his head.

When he first felt called to ordained ministry in his home community of Dallas, Williams was an openly gay Episcopalian who had been active in founding a chapter of Integrity, a gay organization in the church.



The first gay priest, J. Robert Williams (l.) of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, N.J., was ordained by Newark Bishop John S. Spong (r.). (Photo: T.L. Litt)

Lutherans

(Continued from page 1)

something immoral about being homosexual. He has old-fashioned ideas about these things. But there's a lot wider support for this than he realizes," said the Rev. John Frykman of First United Lutheran Church.

Frykman said that the bishop would call a disciplinary hearing of the congregation following the ordination and that the clergy who ordained Johnson and the lesbian women would use the hearing to try to educate the whole church.

Because the congregation receives no financial support from the denomination and owns its own property, there can be no financial impact from their actions, Frykman told the *Bay Area Reporter*. He also said that he had no idea how far the disciplinary action would go.

If the congregation is expelled from the denomination, it becomes an independent church. According to Frykman, only two members of the 120-member congregation voted against calling Johnson to the ministry.

Although Johnson said he was "really jazzed" about being a pastor, he acknowledges that he faced several challenges.

A recent incident with an East Bay pastor of another Lutheran denomination is, he said, a case in point.

"I was talking with a pastor a week ago, trying to develop some contacts with ministers working with black and Hispanic gay men. The pastor told me that he was not concerned that AIDS was going to eradicate the black community and that he didn't care what it did in the gay community," Johnson said. That's morally offensive, but it's supported by denominational theology and

sexual ethics. He won't be disciplined for believing or acting on it. That's religious abuse."

Johnson says that gay people have a lot to give to the institutional church.

"God has created us with many gifts and blessings. One is our sense of community. Another is our sexuality and our sexual orientation, our cultural outlook in life. These are unique gifts. They shouldn't be changed and do not need to be overcome."

Johnson said that if Luther were alive now, he would "probably be in the forefront of this agenda and saying supportive things about lesbian and gay people."

Following his ordination, Johnson, like Zillhart and Frost, will work in outreach ministries to gays and lesbians in the Bay Area. ▼

Gay Freedom Band Changes Name

by Allen White

To many they are known as the "Gay Band." Officially they have been known for more than a decade as the "San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps." No more. The band has quietly changed its name.

As a concert band performing earlier this month at Fort Mason, they were simply known as the "San Francisco Winds of Freedom." When they march in parades they will now be known as "The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band."

The changes come as the band announces that Nancy Corporon will be the group's first lesbian director. Corporon becomes the band's artistic director in January. She was co-founder of the New York Gay Community Marching Band, which is now called the Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps.

Phil Tuggle, the Band Foundation's acting executive director, said the name change was made for several reasons. The name "Gay Freedom Day Marching Band" came into being because the band originally was formed, Tuggle said, to perform only once at the 1978 parade.

Tuggle said that as the parade changed its name in 1981, by adding the word lesbian, the



Jon Sims (center), conductor, with members of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps, The Tap Troupe and The Guard. (Photo: A. Nomura)

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Band

(Continued from previous page)

band is now using words to reflect the community it represents. He also believes the new name is simpler to use. Tuggle said that most people never used the full name of the band, preferring simply "the gay band."

The more controversial change will be the elimination of the word "gay" from the concert band, which will now be known as the "Winds of Freedom."

"We don't want to scare people because of the names 'lesbian' and 'gay,'" Tuggle said, adding that some people are "still afraid" of the words.

Tuggle said the band hoped to attract larger audiences by removing the words that tie the musical group to the gay community. The change represents a trend by the San Francisco Band Foundation, a non-profit corporate parent of the band, to virtually eliminate any reference to sexual orientation.

Historically, many believe the finest hour of the "gay band" was when it called itself the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and when it per-

formed in concert. The band performed at Davies Symphony Hall in 1980. Before those concerts, only the San Francisco Symphony had performed at the newly opened hall.

Two Davies performances sold out and a third was added to accommodate the demand for tickets.

Another example of de-gay-ing the San Francisco Band Foundation can be found in a rather extensive description of next year's Men Behind Bars presentation in the foundation's corporate newsletter. The show is never referred to in a gay context. The copy contains no mention of drag queens, muscle men, wildly gay humor or anything regarding the historical foundation of the show, which, in fact, is derived from men working behind gay bars as gay bartenders.

In 1978 Sims founded the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. One year later Corporan co-founded the New York Gay Community Marching Band, which is now called the Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps, and served as its first conductor.

Sims developed the band into one of the most dynamic performing aggregations in North-

ern California. At the 1980 gay parade the band was part of a marching unit that included a tap troupe, a twirling corps, an honor guard, a flag corps and a drill team. Together there were more than 200 participants, and the group spread out on Market Street for more than one full city block.

In 1979 and 1980 the band won first prize at almost every parade where they performed. Equally as important, the band became the first opportunity for many to see gay people marching with pride and dignity. For straight people, it was an opportunity to educate. For gays it was an incredible statement of dignity and pride.

Ironically, the person most opposed to the addition of the word "lesbian" to the band name was Sims. The parade changed its name in 1981 and Sims steadfastly objected to changing the group's name to reflect the name of the annual Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Celebration. He said adding the word "lesbian" would be redundant.

In New York City the Lesbian and Gay Apple Corps continues and Corporan recently returned to appear as a guest conductor at the group's 10th anniversary concert.

**NEXT I WANT THE
JEFF SKYWARD
TREE TOPPER.
HOPE THE
CEILING IS HIGH
ENOUGH!**



Hippler

(Continued from page 11)

Not much better, I thought. Still, the turtles were named Raphael, Donatello, Michaelangelo and Leonardo—three of whom (in real life) were homosexual—and who could argue with that? So what that my nephews would grow up perversely associating the greatest artists of the Renaissance with overgrown turtles? At least they wouldn't be enlisting in guerilla armies in Central America.

Friends at work thought I was taking this whole issue much too seriously. "Oh lighten up," they said. "It's just a game, no different than the ones you used to play when you were a kid!" But I begged to differ. I never owned a C.I. Joe or a Battleship game in my life. (I was much too busy with my Jenny doll.) And although I did wear a Wyatt Earp outfit, I did it because I thought it looked terrific—not because I wanted to kill outlaws.

My boyfriend, on the other hand, didn't think I was taking the issue seriously enough. "I can't believe you surrendered to their demands," he said. "How spineless can you be? Couldn't you have bought them a book? Who cares what they want—or think they want?"

"That's easy for you to say," I replied. "There are no kids in your family. Besides, it doesn't pay to be dogmatic, inflexible or, worst of all, self-righteous. It's important to strike a balance. Anyway, maybe these games aren't so bad. Maybe my nephews are learning skills we never had a chance to learn. Things change, you know. My parents probably thought I spent too much time in front of the television, but it doesn't seem to have done me any harm."

Are you sure about that?" my boyfriend asked.

By this point I wasn't sure of anything, except that I just wanted to be done with the whole mess and get the goddamn gifts in the mail. Trying to satisfy my family, my friends, my boyfriend and myself had proved to be impossible. So next year, I concluded, I would say to hell with it and send Lotto tickets instead. It might not be politically or morally correct either, but why not let other people take chances for a change?

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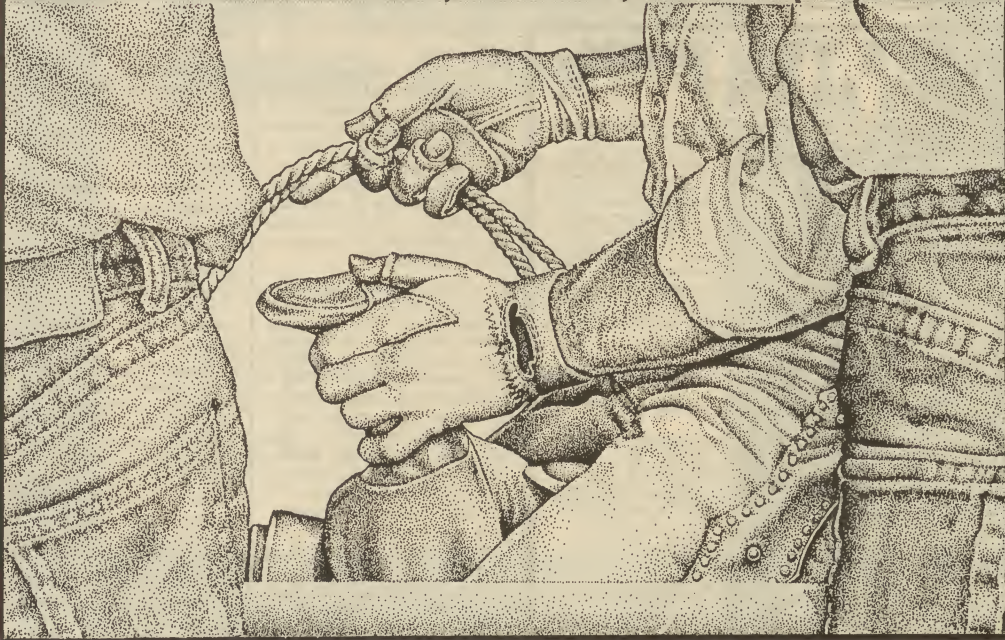
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SFPD

(Continued from page 1)

with the rank and file of the police department and has received little support within the department for the notion of removing Chief Frank Jordan (a proposal that has been floated only tenuously). While the Police Officers Association endorsed Agnos in his 1987 candidacy for mayor, his influence with that organization has been on the wane since it ousted its pro-Agnos union leader, Bob Barry, in a vote earlier this year. Barry was defeated by Michael Keyes, who ran on an anti-liberal platform. This leaves Agnos facing pressure on both sides of the political fence.

The police department has long shown signs of having the potential to become an enormous political albatross for Agnos. Earlier this year, he was forced to publicly support Jordan's decision that no charges would be filed against the officer charged with injuring Dolores Huerta during a September 1988 demonstration. Although the Office of Citizen Complaint had recommended disciplinary action, Jordan refused to send the recommendation to the Police Commission—the next necessary step if discipline was to be handed out—and threatened to resign if forced to go along with the OCC findings.

Agnos's support of Jordan became even more of a political liability when it was revealed that

the chief's brother, Deputy Chief Jack Jordan, had approved the removal of a crucial memorandum from the file of the officer accused of beating Huerta. The memo indicated that the officer seriously needed stress counseling—a warning that was ignored. A grand jury investigating the incident, however, never knew the memo existed.

Jordan brought charges against his brother and three other officers in the incident, but a police investigation recommended no disciplinary action against the deputy chief.

A concurrent police department issue has been the bungling by homicide investigators of the investigation into the murder of George Smoot, a gay man, in November 1987. Again, the Office of Citizen Complaint entered the case, but it still has not been resolved. The officers involved are presently on trial before the Police Commission.

The final straw, however, came with the Oct. 6 police sweep and near-riot in the Castro in the wake of an ACT UP demonstration. By evening's end, heads had been bloodied, more than 50 demonstrators and passersby had been arrested, and Castro Street residents and business patrons had been held captive indoors while police in full riot gear marched back and forth in military formation. Further sully the department's stained reputation, one of the police captains who had been placed in charge of the event stood accused of having broken ranks to club demonstra-



Frank Jordan

tors and bystanders. The OCC has received more than 30 complaints of alleged police brutality related to the event, a number that is considered extraordinarily high.

Faced with the prospect that Jordan would have the power to refuse to sustain any charges filed by the Office of Citizen Complaint in its review of allegations of police misconduct, Agnos, in an extraordinary open letter to the gay and lesbian community issued to the *Bay Area Reporter* on Oct. 17, said he wanted the police chief cut out of the loop when it came to deciding whether OCC findings go to the commission for action.

Agnos also strengthened the hand of lesbian Police Commissioner Gwenn Craig, another recent appointment, by making it clear in his letter to the lesbian and gay community that the situation was unacceptable if even a quarter of the allegations made about police handling of the Castro Street incident were true.

For her part, Craig—who was thrust quickly into a pivotal role on the commission due to the Castro Street incident—is already proving to be a strong presence on the commission. She has taken a leading role in the pursuit of the Smoot case as well as in the followup to the Oct. 6 demonstration.

A month after the Castro Street incident, Chief Jordan initiated his own shake-up within the department. In the most significant move, his brother, Deputy Chief Jack Jordan, was forced to retire. Other police managers were disciplined or reassigned for their roles in handling the affair; Chief Jordan said his brother had flouted department policy on crowd control by failing to assign a police commander to supervise the protest.

Yet, Agnos has made it clear that whatever action Chief Jordan takes is independent and unrelated to action the Police Commission may take related to the event. A separate OCC investigation into the police management of the event is proceeding as ordered by Agnos, as are investigations into police misconduct complaints.

All of this has done little to satisfy critics such as the Alliance to Stop Abusive Police, which has been calling for police reform that is more than window dressing. Instead, police critics seek a serious change in police management practices, a streamlining of the disciplinary review process for cops charged with misconduct, a revamping of crowd control procedures, improvement in training procedures, and increased accountability within the department.

Meanwhile, the poker game continues. Agnos may have an opportunity to up the ante if, as is expected, Police Commission Jose Medina leaves the commis-

Chronology

by Dennis Conkin

A row of police cars in flames at Civic Center Plaza. One hundred twenty people injured. A phalanx of cops wading into the Elephant Walk Bar in the Castro in retaliation.

The images of the White Night riots, the violent aftermath of the manslaughter conviction and sentencing of Dan White for the killings of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, now a decade old, are etched so indelibly in the fabric of San Francisco's gay experience that they are a part of the tribal history, a haunting living symbol of gay rage.

What started out as protest turned into confrontation.

In the months that followed, the political fallout was enormous.

Charles Gain, widely known as Moscone's reformist police chief, who preferred a business suit to regulation uniform blues, was forced out of office within a year. Police squad cars, painted blue and white during Gain's tenure, reverted to black and white.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein later appeared in a publicity photo in a blue police jumpsuit adorned with a silver star and let it be known that police chiefs belonged in uniform.

Enter Art Agnos.

Gail Orr-Smith, a former Detroit police officer, becomes deputy mayor for public safety, Agnos' liaison with the police department.

Within months after his election there are two small but pivotal incidents in the Haight. Homeless residents living in their cars and vans along the Panhandle are told to get in their vehicles and ride as Agnos decides that he will enforce old anti-hippie van camping prohibitions.

A small but agitated group of eccentric local radical hippie types bearing the hard-to-argue with name of Food Not Bombs sets up a soup line in Golden Gate Park to feed the homeless miso soup, red beans and rice—and change the world at the same time.

They are arrested for serving food without permits. They do it anyway. They are arrested again, play a continual underground game of hide and seek with various city departments and the police; food becoming a form of civil disobedience that erupts a year and a half later in Civic Center Park, as they unfurl the Goddess of Carrots and their leader is carted off to jail for the umpteenth time.

There are other images.

September 1988. Dolores Huerta is injured by a baton thrust by a TAC Squad officer during an anti-Bush demonstration outside the St. Francis Hotel on Powell Street. Her ruptured spleen is removed during major surgery.

Two months later Chief Frank Jordan refuses to sustain charges against the officer charged by the Office of Citizen Complaints for using unnecessary force in the Huerta incident. He threatens to quit if the Police Commission votes to overrule him. Jose Medina casts the lone vote to hear the charges.

Huerta files a multimillion dollar lawsuit against the city.

March 1989. A Central American protest at the Federal Building turns into a melee, as

undercover officers who do not identify themselves wade into the demonstration and arrest people. Charges of police brutality are made by participants and legal observers. Revelations that police photos of El Salvadorean refugee protesters are shared with the government of El Salvador surface.

In hearings before the Board of Supervisors in April, Bill Paul, a gay activist who would die of AIDS six weeks later, shocks the crowd by supporting the police response, saying that agitators had provoked the police.

June 1989. Police arrive at the ARC/AIDS Vigil on a Friday afternoon and order the group to dismantle its tents, and clear the area in half an hour or be arrested.

The orders, according to the police, were approved by the mayor's office, but no gay leadership or Board of Supervisors member was informed.

The orders, hours later, are reversed, by the intervention of Agnos, who is reportedly furious by his staff's handling of the incident.

Oct. 6, 1989. A squadron of more than 150 police officers sweeps the Castro. There are reports that police motorcycles ran into the crowds, that patrons of bars, restaurants and other businesses were held hostage under martial law-like conditions, that demonstrators were attacked. Several are injured. There are more than 50 arrests, and 25 complaints filed with the OCC.

Eleven days later, on Oct. 17, Agnos issues an extraordinary open letter to the lesbian and gay community saying that he is deeply disturbed by the incident,

In his letter Agnos makes public his desire that sustained OCC complaints against officers charged with misconduct in the incident go directly to the Police Commission and bypass the chief of police.

On Nov. 13, Jordan makes a series of personnel and policy changes following his investigation of the police handling of the demonstration.

Responsibility for crowd control is removed from the TAC Squad. Two police captains in charge of operations for the demonstration are reassigned, one of them pending an OCC investigation into charges that he assaulted protesters.

A deputy chief, Jordan's own brother, faces disciplinary action for failing to assign a deputy chief or police commander to manage the department's operations during the demonstration.

In November, Jordan, who also faced disciplinary action for removing a memo from the personnel file of the officer charged in the Huerta incident, retires.

Al Nelder, former chief of police under Joseph Alioto, resigns from the Police Commission following talks with Agnos. John Kecker, the lawyer who prosecuted Ollie North for Iran-Contra crimes, takes Nelder's post.

Two months earlier Agnos had appointed Gwenn Craig, a black lesbian, to the commission. Kecker's legal expertise is viewed as an asset. Craig's management expertise is as well.

The change on the Police Commission is viewed as an indication that Agnos, under fire from the electorate, the Board of Supervisors, and a newly formed police watchdog group, The Alliance to Stop Abusive Police, means business.

Only time will tell. ▼

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(Continued on page 22)

Recovery Programs Change Course

by Cindy Bologna

Garden Sullivan Hospital and part of Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center is restructuring its inpatient chemical dependency program and is planning to re-evaluate and step up its outpatient services. The unit at Garden Sullivan, located at 2750 Geary Blvd., reportedly has been heavily utilized by the gay and lesbian community.

Diana Karner, manager of inpatient psychiatric and chemical dependency services for PPMC assures the public that the after-care and alumni groups of Garden Sullivan will not be interrupted by this change.

The inpatient program will now be condensed and will be part of the psychiatric unit at PPMC.

"Many times, patients with chemical dependency issues also have underlying psychiatric problems such as depression," Karner said. "By combining the services into one unit, we can better address the patients' needs."

Detoxification from alcohol and/or drugs will also take place in the psych unit, with patients being hospitalized for only four or five days.

Karner claims there are two main factors changing the focus from inpatient to outpatient chemical dependency services. The first reason reportedly is a decline in the inpatient population.

"The public is not as interested in the 26-day hospital recovery program as it once had been," Karner said. "People are seeking help sooner, and many people cannot stop their jobs or their lives for the 28 days needed to complete these programs."

The second reason is that many insurance companies recently have changed their reimbursement policies and will no longer cover hospital stays for the full 28 days.

"There has been a change in focus of third-party payers from inpatient to outpatient," said Karner. "We are bringing in a consultant to look at our existing outpatient program, so that we may provide the best services based on the community's needs."

Eight people are presently in Garden Sullivan's outpatient program who will be moved into aftercare at the program's end.

"We will be taking no new patients in our outpatient program until April 1990, when we foresee the restructured program in place," Karner said.

She admits that during this time, some people might fall through the cracks.

"We might have to refer people elsewhere that we normally could have helped," Karner said, "but in the long run, our program will be better suited to the needs of the community."

One of those organizations that might help serve the community during Garden Sullivan's transition is Operation Concern—another segment of PPMC.

"We have a program called 'Operation Recovery,' which is a six-month chemical dependency outpatient program for gay men," said Judith Stevenson, executive director of Operation Concern. "We've been in existence since 1985 and have recently added a family program

which addresses codependency issues."

Stevenson claims that getting funding from groups that normally give to family oriented recovery programs can be difficult.

"Since gay families aren't recognized as such, our programs are not entitled to funding available to families," said Stevenson. "It's especially frustrating when surveys state that one in 10 people in the general population are chemically dependent. In the gay and lesbian community, the estimate is as high as three in 10."

When asked her opinion as to why the alcohol and drug problem is higher in the gay and lesbian community than the general population, Stevenson said, "Up until the last 10 years or so, there was no place to socialize but in bars. Gay men and lesbians led more closeted lives, which attributed to low self esteem, which led to chemical abuse."

Operation Concern does not



Judith Stevenson of Operation Concern.

(Photo: S. Savage)

have a chemical dependency program for lesbians at this time, but may be considering one in the future.

"The Iris Project is a recovery program for lesbians," said Stevenson. "When Operation Concern was forming Operation Recovery, we agreed with the people at the Iris Project upon non-duplication of services. However, if the need is there, we may begin

discussions about opening a lesbian project under Operation Recovery.

Both Karner and Stevenson view the combination of chemical dependency and psychiatric recovery as a welcome change.

"It's great that the psychiatric and chemical dependency professionals are talking to each other," Stevenson said.

"In the past, psychiatric and

chemical dependency programs have been separate," Karner said. "And the patients lost out because of that separateness."

Anyone seeking help for alcohol or drug dependency can call: Operation Recovery, 626-7000; Pacific Presbyterian Med Center, 563-4321; Iris Project, 864-2364; Alcoholics Anonymous, 661-1828; Narcotics Anonymous, 621-8600.



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AIDS Commission Blasts Government's Inaction

by Cliff O'Neill

The National Commission on AIDS, citing a mounting urgency on the epidemic, on Dec. 5, sent a preliminary report on to President Bush more than nine months early, asking for his leadership in guiding the nation out of the ongoing health crisis.

"The testimony we recently heard on health care and financing was so compelling we felt it is vital to write to you now, rather than wait until our statutorily required annual report next August," wrote commission Chair Dr. June E. Orborn and commission Vice-Chair Dr. David E. Rogers in a letter to Bush, which accompanied the report.

AIDS and gay/lesbian advocacy groups were quick to heap praise in the preliminary report, which was also forwarded to Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress.

"Once again, we have a comprehensive critique of the government's failure to respond to the real needs of Americans who face HIV infection and the AIDS epidemic," stated Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "It is gratifying to see the commission understands that the AIDS epidemic is not under control and that the federal government must address its failure to deal with this disaster."

In its report the commission pointed to what it called a "growing complacency in our country toward the epidemic that many people want to believe is over."

Noting that AIDS is "reaching crisis proportions among the young, the poor, women and many minority communities," the 15-member commission called for "prompt and appropriate action" from the U.S. Govern-

"The Commission believes it is time to match rhetoric with action."

ment. Also included as key portions of the seven-page report were findings that the link between drug use and HIV infection has not been adequately addressed and that a national plan to prop up the nation's "faltering health-care system" is needed.

"The Commission believes it is time to match rhetoric with action," the report said, outlining the scope of the AIDS crisis in the nation in staggering terms, noting that in the next 12 months

the nation will face a doubling of the number of AIDS cases diagnosed, bringing the total number to well over 200,000.

The primary problem addressed in the report is the lack of adequate access to health care by a startling percentage of those affected by the disease.

Deriding the belief that Medicaid programs adequately cares for the thousands of low-income HIV infected individuals in the U.S. as a "Medicaid fantasy," the reports notes that in hospitals in the South fewer than 20 percent of AIDS patients qualify under state Medicaid programs, as opposed to 44 percent nationwide.

To combat the crisis, the report states that "frank recognition that a crisis situation exists" and "extraordinary measures" are needed.

Among those measures, the report states, is the creation of a "flexible, patient-oriented, comprehensive system of care" that would bring together a variety of health care options, including hospitals, ambulatory centers and home health care. Also, the report recommends the creation of "regional centers, or networks of care" and "units" which could treat people for both drug use and HIV infection as well as a consolidation of health care services "under one roof."



Roseanne Barr may do pro-gay public service announcements.

Barr Urged to Do Pro-Gay Commercials

by Cliff O'Neill

Television comic Roseanne Barr has entered into negotiations with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which may result in a series of pro-gay public service announcements from the star of ABC's *Roseanne*.

The talks, at this point limited to two extended conversations between Barr's sister, Geraldine Barr, and GLAAD Executive Assistant Director Karin Schwartz, resulted from published quotes in which the comedienne used the word "faggy" to describe a movie competing with her recent theatrical release *She-Devil*.

Quoted in the Dec. 7 *Washington Post*, Barr stated, "Our movie is not like *Steel Magnolias*. That was a faggy movie where all the women were men. Our movie depicts strong, bitchy women who don't just sit around. And no, I don't think they are too bitchy. Women can never be too bitchy."

Barr had insisted that the comment was taken out of context by editors and that it was made as part of a larger statement about the evils of Hollywood stereotyping, in this instance, of women in films, according to Schwartz.

"My discussions with Geraldine Barr have been extremely productive," Schwartz said. "It's clear that pro-lesbian, pro-gay sensitivity is already there. It's being conveyed that Roseanne herself has some of this [sensitivity], through Geraldine."

Shortly after being apprised of the comments by a Washington, D.C., resident Dec. 7, Schwartz made several telephone inquiries to the Hollywood publicist for *She-Devil*, which went unanswered that day. Afterward, at Schwartz's request, calls into the publicist's office were made by New York and Washington reporters on the part of the gay and lesbian press.

Once the publicist returned Schwartz's and the reporters' calls, Schwartz was asked if Barr would agree to make an anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence public service announcement as a means of making reparations for her "faggy" comment.

Days later, Geraldine Barr call-

ed Schwartz and the two spoke at length. During the conversation the comic's sister discussed Roseanne Barr's sensitivity to gay and lesbian issues and said it was based on having gay family members.

Geraldine Barr reportedly stated that, as Roseanne Barr is already the subject of public attacks based on her role as a public non-traditional woman, she worried of the gay and lesbian press leading the charge against her.

While Geraldine Barr assured Schwartz that by Dec. 14 they would be able to issue a joint statement outlining what actions the actress would take on the part of gay and lesbian community, personal problems surfacing the same week have postponed further negotiations until later in December.

Based on her three hours of conversations with Geraldine Barr though, Schwartz believes that Roseanne will follow through with her promises to work with the gay and lesbian community and has offered to make a series of spots denouncing homophobia and bigotry.

Schwartz points out that prior to the published statements, Barr was already on a "B" list of celebrities GLAAD was considering approaching to make pro-gay public service announcements, based on her feminist politics, her having worked in a Denver feminist bookstore, and published accounts that a member of her family is gay.

"There is a sensitivity that's there," Schwartz said. "The negotiations are being carried out in that spirit... We hope that we will be able to combine both sets of negotiations, one responding to her use of the word 'fag' and the other the desire we've had for a long time to approach her to use her star power and her television personality to speak out against issues of discrimination and violence."

Last year, Schwartz negotiated a widely-publicized public service announcement from comedian Bob Hope after he casually used the word "fag" on an episode of the *Tonight Show*.

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—Bob Woolhouse

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Free Cab Rides On New Year's Eve

Mayor Art Agnos had proclaimed Dec. 11-17 National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week in San Francisco.

He also kicked off the 1989 HomeCab Program that will provide free taxi service to partygoers on New Year's weekend, Dec. 29, 30 and 31.

On that weekend, from 7 p.m.-3 a.m., HomeCab will provide free rides home from any restaurant or bar for patrons who have had too much to drink. The HomeCab number is 666-3000.

Primary underwriter for the HomeCab program is St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center, Chemical Dependency Recovery Center. Other sponsors include 560 KSFO/KYA, KTVU Channel 2, Mayor Agnos' Driving Under the Influence Project, Home Safely San Francisco, Mark Hopkins Inter-Continental Hotel, California Beverage Company and San Francisco Taxicab Association.

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National Briefs

Compromise on AIDS Budget Cuts

Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan has reached a compromise with the Office of Management and Budget on cuts to his proposed 1991 budgets for the nation's federal AIDS programs, the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, the *Washington Post* revealed Dec. 12. After a heated dispute between Sullivan and OMB Director Richard Darman concerning proposed reductions in the budgets of a host of social programs identified as "priorities" by the Bush administration, several cuts to the proposed 1991 Health and Human Services budget were reduced, but not eliminated. As part of the agreement, AIDS programs will be funded at \$1.7 billion, a compromise between Sullivan's \$1.75 request and Darman's \$1.6 figure, which would have been identical with congressionally approved 1990 funding. AIDS activists, however, are expressing extreme disappointment over the \$100 million increase above last year's approved budget, a raise they are calling much too meager. Gregory King, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, said the AIDS budget should be "at least double" the \$1.75 billion figure. **Cliff O'Neill—**

Massachusetts Repeal Move Thwarted

Supporters of the Massachusetts Gay Rights Law, which was signed on Nov. 15 by Gov. Michael Dukakis, claimed a major victory when Attorney General James Shannon ruled that the attempt to place the statute on the ballot for repeal in 1990 was unconstitutional. Opponents of the law had hoped to rescind it by placing it before voters in the coming election. Shannon said the gay rights law could not be subject to the referendum process because it included language that exempts religious institutions from provisions. The state's constitution states that matters pertaining to religion cannot be subject to referendum. Gay rights supporters noted the irony that the religious amendment, which was added on by opponents, proved to be the legal undoing of the repeal effort. Opponents have vowed to challenge the ruling, but political analysts believe the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court will very likely uphold Shannon's decision. ▼

ACLU Settles PWA Home Lawsuit

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois has settled a federal lawsuit it filed on behalf of Charles Baxter against the city of Belleville, Ill. The city had tried to prevent Baxter from opening a home for persons with AIDS or who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. According to John Hammell, director of the ACLU's AIDS and Civil Liberties Project, the suit was the first in the nation filed under the federal Fair Housing Act to protect people with AIDS. Hammell said, "The resolution of this case should help stop housing discrimination based on AIDS. It makes clear there is a federal legal remedy for such discrimination, and anyone who commits such discrimination—including government bodies—will have to pay for their actions." ▼

NY Court Clears Man of Sodomy

A New York state trial court on Dec. 1 vacated the guilty plea of a man arrested and convicted in 1969 under statutes since declared unconstitutional in New York. The court decision cleared his record, helping to ensure that he will not be further penalized for charges used in the past to criminalize sexual conduct between consenting adult partners of the same sex. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund represents "John Doe," a New Yorker arrested for the first and only time in March 1969 for the so-called crime of "consensual sodomy." In return for a dismissal of this charge, Mr. Doe pled guilty to the related offense of "loitering for the purpose of engaging in deviate sexual intercourse." Several years ago the Court of Appeals, New York State's highest court, found both of these statutes unconstitutional because they violated constitutional rights to privacy and equal protection. ▼

NGLTF Elects Co-chair, Sets New Course

The board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has adopted a strategic plan that strengthens the organization's administrative operations, provides a method for evaluating NGLTF's projects and lays the groundwork for dynamic advocacy and growth in the future. In addition to approving the NGLTF strategic plan, the board elected a new co-chair and adopted the 1990 NGLTF budget at its Dec. 9-11 board meeting in Washington, D.C. Named male co-chair of the board is John D'Emilio, activist and professor of history at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. D'Emilio joins female co-chair Geni Cowan, executive director of the Western Addiction Services Program of the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in Santa Barbara. A key section of the plan is the rewritten NGLTF statement, which defines NGLTF as existing "to eradicate prejudice, discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, HIV status and to serve its members in a manner that reflects the diversity of the lesbian and gay community." ▼

NGLTF Blasts U.S. Immigration Policy

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force blasted U.S. Immigration policy for discriminating against people with AIDS and HIV at a Dec. 13 news conference held by the National AIDS Commission. The news conference was called by the commission to generate media and public awareness of the U.S. immigration and visitation policy. Applicants for immigration must take an HIV test, and visa applicants are questioned, detained and/or rejected based on their antibody status. "The U.S. has become an international outlaw with its discriminatory immigration and travel restrictions on people with AIDS and HIV," said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF executive director. "NGLTF condemns the policy of the U.S. government with regard to prohibitions on the immigration, visitation and naturalization of HIV-infected persons as well as restrictions on lesbians and gay men." Vaid pointed out that the World Health Organization, the Presidential Commission on the HIV epidemic, the National AIDS Commission and other national and international organizations have rejected such restrictions on HIV positive persons as unnecessary, counterproductive and a waste of resources. ▼

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

U.S. Military Only Began Ousting Gays in 1943

by Rex Wockner

The U.S. Armed Forces did not adopt specific anti-gay policies until 1943, according to gay historian Allan Berube, who presented some of the findings from his upcoming book, *Coming Out Under Fire*, during the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Creating Change" conference in November.

The Pentagon considers a homosexual orientation to be "incompatible with military service" because, among other things, it leads to "breakdowns in morale and discipline."

"But there was no anti-gay policy during World War I," according to Berube, "and only those accused of sodomy were court-martialed. It wasn't until 1944 that people were discharged merely for being gay. The hostility to homosexuals allegedly made a unit dysfunctional if they knew there was a homosexual there."

The military also presently maintains that gays are at high risk of blackmail from individuals who might "expose" them—a position that Berube says is even newer.

"The security rationale was raised during World War II and rejected," he said. "They saw it as a political argument unrelated to morale and discipline. It was raised again in 1950 by the Senate and the military again rejected it."

Of the 16 million people drafted for World War II, 9,000 were discharged for homosexuality, according to Berube.

"Using the bottom line Kinsey statistic of three percent, this means 641,000 homosexuals served without incident."

"Some of the officials recognized this," Berube said, "and came up with the term 'the well-adjusted homosexual.' Utilization of homosexual personnel was specifically discussed during WWII...and it was determined that they were good typists, good in entertainment and had nursing skills."

The Steffan Case

Joining Berube at the NGLTF conference was attorney Sandy Lowe from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Lowe represents Joseph Steffan, the top-of-his-class Navy midshipman who was driven out of the Annapolis Naval Academy two months before graduation because he acknowledged being gay.

Steffan's case was dismissed in November because, on advice from Lowe, he refused to answer questions about whether he had sex while in the Navy.

Lowe argued that Steffan's behavior was irrelevant to the case because he was pushed out of the academy based on his statements that he is gay.

"You cannot discharge someone for crime X and then justify the discharge by saying he did crime Z," Lowe explained. People in the military are doing 'it' [having sex] every day with impunity. What the military doesn't want is that you say you are 'it' [gay]. We're going to appeal this case and we're going to win it, honey, and open up this society for its own good."

Lesbian Witchhunt

Also speaking at the NGLTF military workshop was Vicki Almquist of the Women's Equity Action League.

Almquist said lesbians in the military face a substantially harsher climate than gay men.

"If you're assertive, competent, athletic or turn down dates, you often end up in trouble," she said.

Almquist cited research showing that women are discharged from the military for homosexuality three times as often as men, and eight times as often in the Marine Corps.

She focused in particular on the 1988 case of Cheryl Jameson, who was court-martialed for consensual homosexual sex and spent a year in the Quantico military prison.

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Bill Borman

Feb. 15, 1933-Dec. 12, 1989

Bill died at Marshal Hale Memorial Hospital on Dec. 12 after a courageous battle with AIDS-related complications. A native of New York and a long time San Francisco resident, Bill was a teacher, an outdoorsman, a photographer, a clogger, an athlete, an employee of Bank of America, and a good and dear friend to many in our community.

Bill was grateful for the compassion and caring of the social work and nursing staffs of Children's Hospital and Marshal Hale Memorial and his friends at the Shanti Project.

His family will release his ashes in the wilderness, where he was always—and now will always be—at peace.

Memorial contributions in Bill's name may be made to the Food Bank of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. ▼

George A. Gottwals
Dec. 25, 1941-Nov. 2, 1989

George opened a new horizon at 1:05 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2. He left behind a veil of tears from his friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

I want to invite you to a special celebration for George, who never wanted a formal service, but instead a great party with good friends. On Sunday, Dec. 31, at the Watering Hole from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., bring stories to tell about you and George. Let this be a day of happy reminiscence.

In lieu of flowers, please make "Every Penny Count" for the AIDS Emergency Fund. ▼



John Andrew Lewis

"O, for the love of a friend whose voice and touch will rainbow sorrows, diamond tears, making them gems of rarest joy; one who forgives all my shortcomings and asks to do so; one who dares to the uttermost of



human imagery; one whose ship will cast anchor and throw out the life line of hope when storms are near, one who forgives in me all that I can forgive in myself. O, for the love of a friend who can be

made the sacred trustee of my heart; one who is more to me than the closest relative; one whose very name is so sacred that I want to whisper it softly; one who lingers near my door in time of distress and stretches forth his hand, which is not empty or cold, and who says little but feels largely; one whose very glance radiates tenderness, sympathy, loving kindness, and whose warming effect penetrates the very soul of me; one whose smile eases the gray pain in the heart of me; one who lays his hand tenderly on my fevered brow, saying, "Peace be still"; one who is not afraid to lay down his own burden to help carry mine; one whose silent presence subdues all gloom and melts keenest sorrows, transforming them into a brilliancy of gladness and joy. Without such friendship, love is without endurance.

With much love to our friend John who was all this and more.

We miss you. ▼

Mark Allen Avant

Jan. 10, 1952-Oct. 27, 1989

Anyone knowing Mark would also know that his passion for life was surpassed



only by his passion for music. Music was his life. His exceptional baritone voice and musicality were an inspiration to many. Mark received his B.A. in music from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

He taught music for a number of years. Mark has participated in many fine choirs in Ohio, Illinois and California. Locally he sang with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, San Francisco Men's Chorus; and as baritone soloist with the Winifred Baker Choral, St. Brigid's Catholic Church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and others.

A purchasing agent well known in the business community, Mark possessed a dedication not often encountered in today's marketplace. His keen sense of detail combined with his quick wit will be missed by his many friends and associates. Survivors include parents Donald and Rachel Avant, sister Michelle, brother Michael and longtime friend Angelo Canzoneri.

A memorial service will be offered at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at Van Ness and Clay, Jan. 6, 1990, 4 p.m. No flowers please, donations preferred. Please make checks payable to the Mark Avant Memorial Fund and send to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay St., San Francisco, 94109.

It was one of Mark's wishes to invite his many associates to sing in his memorial service. Interested persons should contact Dr. David Farr at 673-7327. ▼

Scott Pitcher Howell

Jan. 17, 1949-Dec. 10, 1989

Scott P. Howell, age 40, left this world peacefully at home in his sleep early Sunday morning.



Scott took great pride in his home and surroundings so it was quite fitting he left this world at home. He was a vital and active member of the community and AA right to the end.

He celebrated five years of sobriety on the other side, Dec. 17. Up to his passing he was an active participant alive and surviving. He had in fact reinstated his business "The Blind Man" with great enthusiasm.

He is loved and remembered by his mother, Joyce Howell of Tucson, Ariz.,

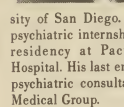
brother Frank Howell of Soquel, nephew Dan of Watsonville, niece Amanda of Daly City, Ben, Rita, Lee, John, Joe of San Francisco, Ellen of San Rafael, Adam, Carl, Jim and Mary of Sonoma County and Wally of Bisbee, Ariz.

Give a call to his roommate Daryl at 552-5579. We'll miss you, Scott. ▼

Steven Edward Potter, M.D.

June 17, 1954-Nov. 30, 1989

On Nov. 30, Dr. Steven Edward Potter died peacefully in his home at 370 Noe St., San Francisco. Dr. Potter, born June 17, 1954, in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, was an alumnus of the University of Michigan, San Francisco State, and the University of San Diego. He completed his psychiatric internship and was also in residency at Pacific Presbyterian Hospital. His last employment was as a psychiatric consultant for the Bridge Medical Group.



Left in this life to carry on the joy, hope and healing, the kindness, love and charity that was the essence of Steven Potter is his lover, Carl Fendrych; his mother, Mrs. Lois Potter; his sister and brother, Kathleen and Brian; and two life-long kindred spirits, Mr. Anthony Haar and Mrs. Billi Gordon-Schallert; along with many relatives, co-workers, patients, acquaintances, and friends, too numerous to mention by name, but certainly not too many to be gathered in his thoughts and in his heart during his final days.

To give tribute to a man dedicated to healing and service, and to celebrate a life founded on love and lived in altruism, those who knew and loved Steven will gather for a traditional tree trimming on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 4-8 p.m. at 3006 18th St., San Francisco, not to mourn the fact that he is gone now, but rather to rejoice that he was once here.

R.S.V.P. Carl 864-4422. Donations may be made to the Shanti Project. ▼

Stephen L. Gaither

Oct. 2, 1944-Oct. 31, 1989

Stephen was born Oct. 2, 1944 in Alberta, Canada, and grew up in the Los Angeles area. Stephen came into my life in Miami in 1971 as master of ceremonies at the Warehouse Bar (a.k.a. Sam) for the Sawdust Review. For five years he entertained the troops there with his talent, wit and charm.

His gusto, enthusiasm and verve for life and making people laugh followed him throughout life and our 18 year friendship. Stephen moved from Miami in 1978 to San Francisco and worked for Pacific Bell until his demise on Oct. 31, after a courageous battle with K.S. for 18 months, remaining strong, concerned and caring for himself and his friends the entire time.

Stephen left behind many close and dear friends, and his life, values and beliefs should be an inspiration for all of us to follow during the last few months. Stephen loved to visit with friends atop San Bruno Mountain overlooking nature—the Pacific Ocean, the mountains and the city he loved so dearly. We will all miss you deeply, my dear. Rest in peace and know all is well now. So, until we are together again, get everything ready up there.

With all our love, Pumpkin—all of your friends, loves, Margo, (your kitty), and of course, Andy. ▼

David Ladd

Aug. 1, 1942-Dec. 7, 1989

Our friend David passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, after living with AIDS for two years.

David taught elementary school in South San Francisco for the past 20 years, where he was popular and well respected by his peers. He leaves behind his family and many friends, acquaintances and colleagues, all of whom will miss his warm smile and kind heart.

Contributions in David's name may be made to either Project Open Hand or Shanti Project. ▼



David Paul Glassberg

Aug. 12, 1952-Dec. 18, 1989

David Glassberg died peacefully at his home on Dec. 18. He and his lover, Tristano Palermo, who died Nov. 22, formed a dedicated and courageous team in fighting to raise national consciousness and promote healing in the AIDS epidemic.



David was a devoted friend, lover, son and brother, an articulate speaker and writer, a teacher, a political activist, and a deeply spiritual man open to experiencing God through many paths. He found comfort and peace in the Jewish tradition, the 12 steps of the Al-Anon program, meditation, alternative healing practices and Eastern thought.

He was an active member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and Glide Memorial Church. David celebrated his love for Tristano in a wedding ceremony at Sha'ar Zahav in July 1988.

David grew up in Teaneck, N.J., and received a B.A. in psychology from American University and an M.A. in counseling from Gallaudet College. He was a counseling psychologist and worked as Director of Vocational Services at Rehob. Services of Northern California. He was fluent in American Sign Language and Spanish. He offered his many skills as a volunteer for the AIDS Alternative Healing Alliance, Project Inform, the Jewish Family Services AIDS Project, People With AIDS/San Francisco, the Wedge Project, the SF AIDS Foundation and the AIDS Health Project.

David loved to dance, laugh, gather with friends, hike in the mountains of Hawaii, and give adamant instructions to his doctors and nurses. He is survived by his parents Pearl and Leonard, his brother Ray, his dedicated support group, and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Donations in his memory to Sha'ar Zahav or to People With AIDS/SF will be very much appreciated. ▼

Charles Martin "Charlie" Weaver

July 16, 1955-Dec. 4, 1989

Charlie left this world to a happier place early in the morning of Dec. 4 at Eisenhower Hospital in Palm Springs



with his lover of eight years lying beside him. Charlie lived in San Francisco the last 10 years after graduating from UCSB and had moved to the desert only one month ago.

Charlie had bravely participated in the Compound Q study at SFGH in August 1989 where he slipped into a coma, never to fully recover from the permanent neurological damage that resulted. Charlie was never diagnosed with AIDS and his death was very sudden and quite a surprise.

A celebration of his life will be held on Dec. 23 in San Francisco. Please call 558-9037 or 864-4422 for more details.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the SFCH 5-A Patient Care Program, Rita Rocket, or Project Inform. All of Charlie's friends will continue to hold special memories of this wonderful, caring man—we love you, we miss you. ▼

David B. Veal

David B. Veal, 43, longtime resident of Atlanta, Ga., and San Francisco, passed away after a long illness with AIDS.



He is survived by his father, William E. Veal of Florida, two brothers, several nieces and nephews, longtime companion Tom Darden of Atlanta and close friend Ron Shrader.

A private memorial has been held in his honor. It is our wish and David's to express our deepest gratitude to his Shanti volunteers Frank and Joe, his nurses Mona, Dorothy, Ron and Mary, for all their loving care and support.

We all miss you, David. ▼

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Carson J. Tong 1949-1989

On Dec. 12, 1989, at 8:15 a.m., a person of immense love, giving, caring and unending strength entrained on a new journey. Carson was surrounded by the magnificent love of his lover, his family and his many intimate friends.



his illness took over, Carson was employed by Pacific Bell.

A native of San Francisco, Carson was born Aug. 13, 1949. An engineer by degree, Carson was a craftsman of perfection. His insight to detail inspired all. Until

While many people may go day by day, Carson always held the future in perspective. His thoroughness was inherent. His smile natural. His love pure.

Carson, this time as you depart, we have to wave to the porter. When your travel is over, we know you will be happy. Best of all, we know when our train arrives there, you will be there to greet us again. —Love, all of us.

Donations to Shanti or Project Open Hand, please.

Vernon Fuquay

Vernon Fuquay, age 36, died of complications from AIDS on Dec. 10. He will be remembered as an inspired friend and a gifted arts administrator who was an important force in the development of the Bay Area dance scene.



Vernon was founder and executive director of Footwork Studio and a key figure in the development of many Bay Area dance artists. With the inauguration of Footwork's Edge Festival in 1986, he became one of the West Coast's primary presenters of experimental dance and interdisciplinary performance. He served on the board of Dance Bay Area and advised many fledgling artists and small companies.

Known for his sharp wit and wry perspective on the world, Vernon believed in honesty in life as well as in art. He had an uncanny ability to cut through the nonsense and to find the bottom line. For many who were close to him his insights were a special gift.

He is survived by his mother Frances and by friends Wayne Hazard, Lawrence Thomas and Miss Amanda who were constantly by his side in the final months of his life.

Donations may be made to Parachute Fund/SF AIDS Foundation, c/o Dance Bay Area, 1141 Mission St., 94110 or PAWS, 201 Clipper St., 94114.

Terry L. Norman

Terry L. Norman died on Nov. 28 after a four-year battle with AIDS. Diagnosed the same week as his mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he moved back home to take care of her until her passing. He then turned his energies to the fight against AIDS, posing for Faces of AIDS, visiting schools as a participant in AIDS Is Real to talk with students about the disease, and serving on the board of ELLIPSE, Peninsula AIDS Services. He attended his last meeting of the ELLIPSE board lying on his back. He celebrated Thanksgiving and then family and

friends came to say farewell and kiss him good-bye.

He is survived by three brothers, two sisters, his father, his beloved stepmother, his nephews and nieces.

Another point of light just went out, President Bush.

Lloyd E. Fair

Sept. 26, 1941-Nov. 19, 1989

Our fabulous Faerie brother Lloyd left his body at 1 a.m. after many months of hospitalization due to AIDS. While for much of those last months he could communicate only by writing, he was beautifully cared for by the many wonderful



Lloyd's life was not an easy one. A lawyer by training who won a case before the N.Y. Supreme Court, his Bay Area life was devoted mainly to teaching his friends about the nature of love, forgiveness, community and lower back pain. Lloyd's unforgettable appearances at Faerie Gathering talent shows as the fabulous Miss Mylar, whose drag satisfied all those who screamed "Show us your dick," is etched forever in history.

His many contributions to the faerie community, from helping to create the vision of the Nomenus faerie sanctuary and doing much legal work to make it a reality, to overseeing the perfect placement of 2,000 paper roses on our pink poodle float, to his ability to always be a standout among standouts, will forever be remembered with gratitude and warmth in the hearts, laughter and dish of his brothers.

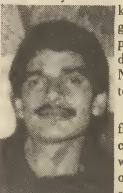
With the help of Lloyd and his family, to whom the community expresses great gratitude, the Miss Shastina Mylar Fabulous Faerie Fund has been established to help faeries with emergency financial needs. In lieu of flowers and condoms, contributions may be made to the fund by calling 444-4169.

Lloyd, darling, may you fly in peace.

Steven Fonseca

1952-1989

One of the sweetest, most beautiful, and certainly silliest friends I have ever



known had to give it up, unexpectedly, on Sunday morning, Nov. 26, in Houston, Texas.

No need for flowery words and corny phrases. He was simply the joy of my life and I shall hurt every day until we are together again.

Adios, mi amigo. See you when I get there. —Maynard Harris.

Fernando Steven Ruiz

May 16, 1961-Dec. 1, 1989

All the fearsome dragons that once followed at your side have since been laid to rest now that you've crossed the river wide.

May you finally know lasting peace, dear friend. We shall miss your purest of hearts, oh monument to potential, though we are richer for having known you. How ironic it is that you should pass away on International AIDS Awareness Day. Forever cherished in our memories... Vaya con Dios.

quarters of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation? Wouldn't ACT UP be screaming 'Nazis!' —sound familiar?, this column is another launch in the rapidly increasing barrage of Shilts's anti-militant rhetoric. When did Randy forget that a dual-pronged attack—protests on the streets; three-piece-suit confrontations on the inside—is the only effective way to stop the loss of lives?

If I didn't know better, I'd swear that Randy Shilts was being paid by some diabolical reactionary newspaper dedicated to discrediting Shilts's reputation.

HIV Watch

(Continued from page 5)

AZT alone, imperfect as it is, has meant that tens of thousands of people are still healthy instead of being sick or dead. The cost of that illness, would, ultimately, be borne by society, so even if we're only counting dollars and cents in our bottom line instead of human values, investing in HIV research will pay off far more than investing in just about any other type of medical research.

At the bottom of this is the question of whose lives are being saved—or lost. HIV is still seen as a disease of "risk groups"—gays, IV drug users and people of color. Some conservatives would gladly pay to see us die; they certainly balk at spending money to keep us alive. Then there is the question of who is doing the research. A disproportionate number of HIV researchers are gay, and the homophobic medical establishment types really hate to lose their fat grants to queers.

We are not spending too much money on HIV research. Arguments pitting cancer against HIV are essentially attempts to pit researchers against each other and keep them from uniting to fight for a bigger pie altogether—a simple enough task. The core issue is the seriously over-burdened health care system we have in this country and its imminent collapse. Let's try spending less of our wealth on Stealthis and more on health!

SCORE: ACT UP 1, POPE 1, CITY HALL 0

Last week, ACT UP's Local Issues Committee shook loose a half-million bucks from City Hall in the course of a few hours. I swear, you could hear the city officials sweating as they talked on the phone, contradicting each

other left and right and scrambling to find money, any money, fast, to replace the \$700,000 allocated in August and frozen in October. ACT UP's efforts were endorsed by dozens of AIDS service organizations, making them the defacto leader of a city-wide coalition, and their demands were almost met in the short interval between the calling of the rally and the actual event. Pretty impressive: a carefully researched demand, unifying the entire HIV community, and results in a couple of days.

In contrast we have the national actions against Catholic churches. Except for New York City's, these actions were not officially carried out by ACT UP. The local effort is being attributed to Boy With Arms Akimbo, and the action in Los Angeles to a group called Greater Religious Responsibility. These actions didn't appear to have goals, except to draw national media attention and perhaps vent some rage.

The media had a wonderful time with the church attacks. Of course, they don't make fine distinctions between ACT UP proper and various quasi-associated sub-groups, so ACT UP, rightly or wrongly, got the credit/blame for all of the attacks. Since these groups were acting il-

legally, they couldn't or didn't communicate with media and this, combined with the media's hostility, muddled the purpose of the action. It was played up as the latest proof of what might be called *Shilts's Law*: ACT UP is a bunch of anti-social, counter-productive, acting-out hooligans.

I preferred the City Hall action. Instead of isolating ACT UP, like the church attacks, it built a coalition. It had goals, it stated them clearly and it succeeded in meeting them, for the most part. The church attacks appear to have further divided the HIV community while putting the Catholic church in the comfortable role of victim. I think the Pope gained more than he lost on this one.

But the mainstream media completely ignored the City Hall rally and played up the church attack. The church attacks fit more with the image the media have tended to project about ACT UP.

I hope that ACT UP bashers in the HIV community will think about things like the \$500,000 squeezed out of a reluctant City Hall next time they complain about the group. I also hope that the next time unofficial ACT UP affiliates vent their rage, they pick their targets with more care and do a better job of handling the media.

Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

its 12 Nights of Christmas musical series at 7:30 p.m. Friday night Denise Erickson and Gary Falardeau are featured with Gregg Tallman at the piano. Irene Solderberg and her friends take over on Saturday. The programs are co-hosted by Scott Johnston and Danny Williams. Each eve-

ning, donations will be solicited to support the Vinnie Russell Christmas Eve Dinner for people with AIDS and their families.

For the athletically supportive, the San Francisco Frontrunners start the weekend with an event beginning Saturday at 9 a.m., at the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park. A no-host brunch will follow. Call 453-4118 for more information.

DIGNITY/San Francisco



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

10: 00 pm, December 24th
Dolores Street Baptist Church
208 Dolores at 15th
Inclusive language
For information call: 255-9244

Ford

(Continued from page 2)

exempt from culpability for their part in the church's dangerous policies.

For better or worse, Shilts-the-journalist is respected by straight readers, and therefore wields mainstream clout. But taken with his Dec. 11 *Chron* column excoriating what he saw as the perversion of language by AIDS sufferers, and with his comments in a Dec. 17 *Datebook* piece on his Dec. 19 PBS special *Wrestling With AIDS* ("What if Catholic militants vandalized the head-

ddl Trials Recruiting

by Etienne Hafs

ddl (dideoxyinosine) is one of a group of promising anti-HIV drugs called nucleoside analogues. Like AZT and other analogues, it works by inhibiting replication of HIV and reducing the rate at which cells become infected with the virus. It has no effect on cells already infected with HIV, however, and it is not a cure for HIV infection. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease is now recruiting for three Phase II and III trials of ddl, alone and in combination with AZT, through its AIDS Clinical Trials Groups (ACTG). These trials, which are expected to enroll approximately 2600 people, will be conducted at medical centers across the US. If you are interested in participating in one of the protocols, talk to your physician or call 1-800-874-2572 for further information about inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Phase I Trial Results

A Phase I study conducted at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and reported in *Science* July 28, 1989, tested ddl for 42 weeks in 26 people (10 PWA and 16 PWARC.) All of the participants had fewer than 300 T-helper cells, and ten were unable to tolerate AZT. Participants were given ddl intravenously at one of eight dosage levels for 14 days, and then received the drug orally at twice the intravenous level. Oral doses were administered on an empty stomach, and participants took antacids before receiving the drug because its effectiveness is substantially lessened by stomach acid.

The rate at which ddl was absorbed by fasting patients who had taken antacids two minutes before receiving it was 35 percent, and the drug crossed the blood-cerebrospinal fluid barrier. Those who received one of the four lower intravenous doses (between 0.2 mg/kg every 12 hours, and 0.8 mg/kg every eight hours) had relatively little change in their condition. However, those who received one of the four higher doses (1.6 mg/kg every 12 hours, and 3.2 mg/kg every 12 hours and 3.2 mg/kg every 8 hours) showed substantial improvement.

The number of T-helper cells in these people increased by

more than 50 percent during the first 6 weeks of the study, remained essentially unchanged during weeks 6 to 10, and at week 28 was still substantially higher than at entry into the study. The level of p24 antigen decreased in all of the high-dose participants who were antigen-positive at the beginning of the study, and in 5 of these people, p24 antigen became undetectable. In addition, participants showed other signs of an improvement in their immune function. There was an increased response to skin allergy tests. Only 1 person at a higher dose developed an opportunistic infection during the study.

After receiving ddl, 14 of the study participants had increased energy and less fatigue or need for sleep. Five reported enhanced appetite, and the majority gained weight (average of 1.6 kg) by week 10. Another study of ddl has shown improvement in people with HIV related dementia.

The NCI researchers reported several side effects of ddl. An increase in blood uric acid was observed by the two highest dose levels. Thirteen patients developed mild headaches, restlessness or insomnia, but these symptoms ended by week 5. Other infrequent adverse effects may have been caused either by ddl or by the underlying HIV infection. These included seizures (two patients), neutropenia (a shortage of a certain type of white blood cell, two patients), recurrence of preexisting hepatitis (one patient), and a temporary skin rash (one patient). The researchers did not see a dose-related pattern to any of these side effects, and they believe that they have not yet reached the highest dose level that can be tolerated.

However, peripheral neuropathy (numbness or pains in the hands and feet) was observed in 21 percent of participants and two ddl studies conducted by the NCI and the AIDS Clinical Trials Groups (ACTG) medical centers, according to reports from the County Community Consortium in San Francisco. In addition, five of 42 people in the ACTG study developed inflammation of the pancreas, a potentially life-threatening condition. Because of this, people with a history of

moderate to severe peripheral neuropathy or pre-existing pancreatitis have been excluded from ddl protocols.

In the test tube, ddl is effective against strains of HIV that have developed resistance to AZT, and the two drugs may have a synergistic effect. In addition, the anemia that is one of the most common side effects of AZT was not observed in the NCI study. These findings suggest that people who cannot tolerate AZT may be able to take ddl instead, and that the two drugs given in combination or alternating therapies may suppress HIV infection better than either drug alone. However, this has not been proven, and confirmation awaits Phase II and III clinical trials.

Phase II Trials

ACTG 117 study will evaluate the difference between ddl and AZT in people who have been using AZT for more than 12 months. People will be randomized to either AZT 200 mg every 4 hours or ddl 375 mg twice daily. The study is for PWARC (at least one symptom) with fewer than 300 T-helper cells or PWA who have been on AZT for more than 12 months. Your physician must document your AZT history, and you must be able to tolerate at least 600 mg AZT a day. This is an 18-month study.

Phase III Trial

ACTG 116 will evaluate the difference between ddl and AZT. People will either take AZT 200 mg every four hours or ddl 375 mg twice a day. The study is for PWARC (at least one symptom) with fewer than 300 T-helper cells or PWA who have been taking AZT for longer than 2 months but less than 12 months. Your physician must document your AZT history. The study will continue for 2 years.

Access to ddl Outside Clinical Trials

NIAID and the Food and Drug Administration have approved 2 ddl protocols for people who need the drug but do not qualify for the clinical trials. In FDA 39A, an "open label study regimen," and FDA 40A, a Treatment IND protocol, participants will



Quake Relief Fund

(l. to r.) Hank Plante, television anchor, and David Landis, director of community and public relations for KPIX 5 accept a \$2,240 check from Larry Eppinette and Hydie Downard, board members of the Imperial Board of Trustees.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

take ddl twice daily at dosage levels determined by body weight. A total of approximately 5000 people will have access to the drug through these protocols. As with the clinical trials, Bristol-Myers—the manufacturer of the drug—will provide the drug free of charge during these protocols.

Open Label Study Regimen

Protocol 39A will make ddl available to PWA who are "clinically deteriorating" on AZT. Participants must have a diagnosis of AIDS that conforms to the current Centers for Disease Control definition. Their health status must show indication of serious decline as evidenced by at least one of the following symptoms: (1) involuntary weight loss of 2 to 2.5 pounds a week for 4 weeks; (2) marked neurologic deterioration; (3) opportunistic infections at least three times in the last six months; (4) two T-helper cell counts of less than 50 per mm³ taken at least one month apart; or (5) a Karnofsky score (which measures the patient's ability to perform certain ordinary tasks) of 40 percent or less for at least one month.

Treatment IND Protocol

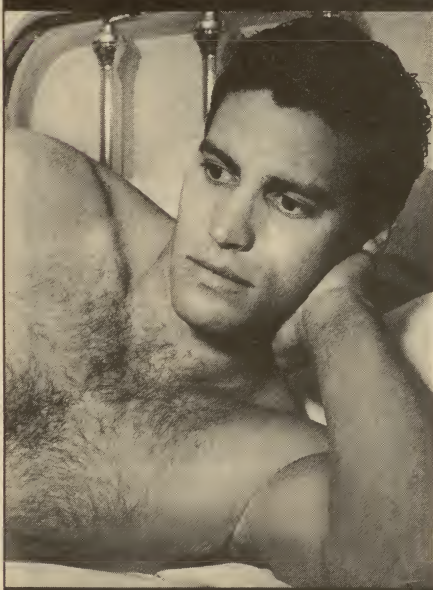
Protocol 40A will make ddl available to PWA and PWARC who have developed intolerance to AZT. Participants must have a diagnosis of AIDS as defined by the CDC or be HIV-positive and

symptomatic with a T-helper cell count of less than 200. AZT intolerance is defined by any one of several adverse reactions, including the following: (1) a drop in hemoglobin of at least 2 grams a month; (2) a drop of neutrophil (the most common type of white blood cell) count to less than 750 cells per mm³; (3) severe nausea and/or vomiting; (4) severe headaches that do not respond to analgesics; and (5) declining muscle strength, such as inability to climb stairs. The participant's private physician must be able to document that these side effects occurred while the person was taking AZT, disappeared when AZT therapy was interrupted, and reappeared when AZT was resumed.

As with the ACTG trials, both of these protocols have extensive exclusion criteria not reported in this article. People who want information about the open label study regimen or the Treatment IND Protocol should call the NIAID Clinical Trials Information Service at 1-800-874-2572. Those interested in participating in either protocol should contact their physicians who must register with Bristol-Myers by calling 1-800-622-7999.

This article is excerpted from the November issue of Beta, the Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS, a publication of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

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Funding provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and foundation, corporate, and individual donations.

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Retaliation for Measure D

Contra Costa ACT UP Urges Boycott of Concord Chamber

by Michael C. Botkin

Bob Snyder, spokesperson for Citizens for an Economic Response to Bigotry and founder of Contra Costa ACT UP, has announced that these two organizations are calling for a boycott of the Concord Chamber of Commerce.

The boycott was called to protest the passage of Measure D in Concord in November, which overturned that city's AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance.

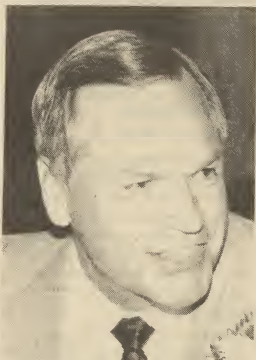
Snyder said that the CCC was targeted because of its support for CCC past-President Beverly Willisroft, member of the anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition of Orange County and unsuccessful candidate for City Council, and its support of Measure D.

"A line has been drawn out here," Snyder said. "A line of bigotry. If they don't want gays and lesbians out here, then they don't want our money either."

Snyder denounced the attitudes in Concord that he felt contributed to the repeal of the anti-discrimination ordinance.

"People felt that 'if we want to be bigots out here, it's our home.' When this [Measure D] passed, I felt like I'd been thrown to the wolves. It's like a mini-Nazi Germany out here," Snyder said. "The goal of the boycott is to send a message, that our money is important and we can make a difference."

The boycott, which has received heavy local media coverage, asks shoppers not to patronize businesses that display CCC stickers.



Lloyd Mashore.

(Photo: Rick Gerhart)

Harry York, executive vice president of the CCC, said that the boycott had yet to have any discernible economic impact. He also said that his organization had never received any notification of the boycott, or any listing of conditions for ending it.

"We only found out about it when the press started calling last week," York said.

He denied that the CCC had supported Measure D, but acknowledged that his organization had opposed the original AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance before its passage.

"We worked to have the original ordinance changed. We have a different basic premise, that civil rights should be handled at the state and not the local level," York said. "But if there was going to be a city ordinance,

why focus on only one type of person? I drafted an alternative that includes race, creed, color, etc., but it wasn't accepted."

However, York insisted that after the passage of the ordinance the CCC took no position on Measure D, which eventually removed the ordinance from the books before it ever became law.

Snyder called for the formation of Contra Costa ACT UP on the evening of the inauguration of Concord's new City Council, including the newly elected Rev. Lloyd Mashore, author of Measure D.

Snyder has been criticized by some Contra Costa County gay and lesbian activists for being disruptive, and for calling in ACT UP/San Francisco to protest that inauguration.

Snyder, in turn, has harsh words for the activists who ran the No on Measure D campaign.

"Measure D was basically botched," he said. "The problem was organization. D could have been defeated with the right approach."

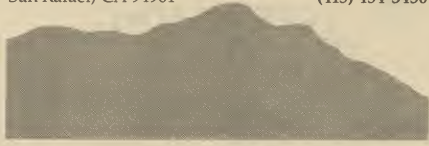
This frustration led Snyder to found the new ACT UP chapter, which he said was "unusual in that it is a majority heterosexual."

Contra Costa ACT UP hopes to get the City Council to approve a proposal for a Concord AIDS Awareness Week, and is working for the passage of an ordinance to replace the overturned Measure D, perhaps broadened to include others besides people with AIDS.

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State Briefs

Insurer Faces Discrimination Suit

A Sacramento Superior Court judge has turned down a request by Farmers Insurance Company to dismiss a lawsuit alleging discrimination against a gay couple. The couple, Boyce Hinman and Larry Beaty, filed the suit after Farmers refused to sell them a joint "umbrella" liability policy. Farmers has taken the position that they will only issue Hinman and Beaty separate policies—at twice the cost—because they are not married. State law does not permit lesbian and gay couples to marry. In the suit NGRA contends that Farmers has violated both the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the anti-discrimination provisions of the insurance code. "Boyce Hinman and Larry Beaty have lived together for 18 years," NGRA Executive Director Leonard Graff said.

Gay Elected Officials Organize

Twelve California lesbian/gay elected government officials have announced the formation of the California Association of Lesbian and Gay Elected Government Officials. CAL/GEGO is an offshoot of the National Organization of Lesbian and Gay Elected and Appointed Officials whose efforts offer a national forum of political strategy and discourse concerning lesbians and gay men in government, and legislation concerning the gay community. CAL/GEGO's co-chairs, San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan and Laguna Beach Mayor Robert Gentry, said the California chapter would serve a significant purpose in supporting local and statewide initiatives and candidates. CAL/GEGO's recent participation in San Diego Assemblywoman Lucy Killea's Dec. 5 Senate victory offered campaign funds and direct volunteer support to her pro-choice campaign. CAL/GEGO's plans include a state-wide conference in 1990 to address the legislative needs of state and local regions, and to establish an on-going strategy for identifying significant candidates and initiatives. The 12 member board also includes San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, Fremont Union School District Trustee Robert Stipicevich, and San Francisco Community College Board Trustee Tim Wolfred.

GLOE Offers Shape-Up Classes

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) is sponsoring "The Job of Fitness," a series of Saturday morning classes beginning Jan. 13 in San Francisco. The class is open to all gay men and lesbians 50 and older.

The class will be conducted by Keith Thomas, a 68-year-old athlete who was a gold medal winner in "Physique '89," the national gay and lesbian bodybuilding competition.

"The heart of each class," Thomas says, "will be 'The Great Morning Stretch,' a basic exercise routine to benefit all parts of the body."

A portion of each class will be devoted to good nutrition, including tips on preparing healthful, appetizing meals for one or two.

The tuition is \$20 for a series of 12 one-hour sessions (scholarships available). Keith will also offer free individual consultation before and after each class. For more information, please contact Operation Concern-GLOE at 626-7000.

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Nez Pas

Trouble With Twinkling Tungsten

'Twas the Night Before...
(A "Relating" Nose)

Next Monday is the *BIG* day, and in honor of the Season we (my spouse and I) decided to have a few friends in for a spot of Holiday Cheer and a bite of Season's Succulence. In preparation for the mini-event, we decided that being somewhat interested in the total environment, we would purchase our first-ever artificial tree.

Since we, too, are somewhat interested in the frugal attitude, when a sale at a "foney flower" place in the town where I work came along, I jumped at the chance to buy a lovely 7.5-footer! When we got the bloody thing assembled (after only half a dozen arguments since I didn't read the directions and put it together upside down!) we discovered that our regular tree lights would be too hot for this tree, so the miniature ones would have to be bought.

Keeping in the spirit of our frugal attitude, I patiently waited until a local grocery/pharmacy/notions/auto/pet store had a half-price sale on miniature lights. Each package contained 100 lights so I purchased three boxes. As I was stringing them on the tree, only then did I read that the 7.5 size required 400 lights, not 300.

"Fuck it," I thought out loud! "300 would have to do!"

Then came the ornaments, and tinsel/festooning, and the top notch. We stood back, viewing our newest creation proudly. We nodded approval and pushed the entire entity back into its corner of the living room. As we stood looking, mesmerized by our handiwork, some of the miniature lights began to flicker and dim, then go out entirely.

I used the "tester light" from the package but couldn't locate which one of the bastards had caused the blackout. The party was the very next day, and there wasn't time enough to go out and buy another string of lights.

"Fuck it," I thought out loud. "250 would have to do!"

(The lights are of the clear variety, anyway. Next year I'll wait for a half-price sale on the multi-colored miniature lights. They don't burn out quite as fast... or do they?)

'Tis the Season Story
(A "Awwwwww" Nose)

I'll probably get some of the information incorrect, but what can one expect when one is at a party/brunch with a drink in one hand and a drink in the other? Anyway, Tootsi! was telling me that she and Manuel did a few of the inimitable routines for a little girl with AIDS and her parents and relatives.

They were invited back recently, to perform again; however, this time it was "in memory" of the little girl. The dynamic duo, if you will, so impressed those who were present, that not only were they invited back to do it again, but also they were asked to bring their friends. Keep in mind that the parents of the girl and her relatives/friends are straight; Tootsi! and Manuel and their friends are gay.

That just has to say something about the powerful presentations from two of the most talented mimers ever to grace the local scene. Way to go, Tootsi! and Manuel!

PIQUANT & PUNGENT
PRESENTATION
(A "Burning" Nose)

Yes, there will be a 10th annual Chili Cook Off! Yes, it will once again be held at Town & Country, on Monday, Jan. 22. Yes, yours truly will have something to do with it. However, this time around the event was "lent" out and will be held under the auspices of Imperial Star Empire.

Empress XI Timmi suggested that perhaps past monarchs would be a good choice for judges, because Empress IX Tootsi! was last year's winner and would automatically be a judge anyway.

Entry fees for your "creative" chili this time around will be \$8, with each bowl selling for two bucks—refills will be two bucks too! All proceeds (and in keeping with the tradition of previous Chili Cook Offs, every penny of entry fees and chili sales are the proceeds) will go to ISE Charity Fund.

There will be certificates and prizes for first, second, and third place winners. (Don't be surprised if yours truly has something to do with the prizes!)

Watch for full details on posters to appear very soon at your favorite watering hole. Empress Timmi promised me that she would distribute them pronto!

VAGABOND EVENTUALITY
(A "Sniffing Out?" Nose)

ISE is planning a smart soiree for Saturday, Feb. 10, and is looking for somewhere to house the festivities. The name of the event is "A Night of a 1000 Brides."

with someone who obviously has the proper credentials available to do the tying of the knots, as it were.

I was informed that none other than Manuel Galaxina Lady De Camp will be in attendance to perform the untying of knots, if you will. I don't know if she has the proper credentials to perform such tasks, but I do know that she can change a mean roll of toilet paper! (But then, that's a totally different story and a horse of a different color, eh what?)

So, if you know of any hall, auditorium, meetinghouse, convention hall or lyceum available for that date, that will allow for cooking of prime rib dinners and a bar setup by ISE, let the powers that be of ISE know. Tentative price of admission is \$15 for singles, \$25 for couples, with emphasis on the latter, don't you know.

★ ★ ★

May all the joys of THE Season be with you and yours. This includes *Christmas* (which we pronounce without the *i* sound as in *Christ* and we drop the *e* sound totally) and *Chanukkah/Hanuka/Hanukkah/Hanukkah* (which no one seems to agree on the spelling, but my editor opts for the style of *Hanukkah*).

★ ★ ★

Don't ask me how life is in the fast lane; I can't even find the on ramp, for gosh sakes! I smile anyway, any way. Love, Nez. ▼

Exhibit on Grief Opens Jan. 4

The First Unitarian Church of San Francisco will host "In Memoriam: Images of Grief and Loss," a traveling exhibit that explores loss and grief, especially when experienced because of a death. The show, which runs Jan. 4-31, was originated by Mary Humphrey, an artist and writer, as a response to the still unsolved murder of her childhood friend Elizabeth "Betty" Short, also known as the tragic "Black Dahlia." Short's violent murder captured headlines during the mid-1940s.

First Unitarian Church of San Francisco is located at 1187 Franklin St. For more information, phone 776-4580. ▼

Police

(Continued from page 14)

sion next month in a bid for a seat on the Board of Supervisors. Agnos's choice of a replacement will further indicate the direction of his efforts to reform the department.

Jordan, on the other hand, also has a card to play. With the retirement of his brother, he has the opportunity to shape the department's direction through his appointment of a new deputy chief. There are two principal contenders for the post: Fred Lau, acting deputy chief, and Michael Lennon, former Mission Station captain. Lennon, a 28-year veteran, has been visible in the gay and Hispanic communities. Lau has the support of the Asian community and is the highest ranking of the eight Asians on the police force who hold rank of sergeant or higher.

The appointments of Craig,

Keker, and Medina's replacement come at a time when Agnos is consolidating his influence throughout the city government infrastructure. Aside from the police department, the power of Agnos's commissioners and deputy mayors is being felt in policy and management areas in the health

There are two contenders— Fred Lau and Michael Lennon

department, the housing authority, the juvenile probation department and other city agencies. Whether that liberal, progressive influence will be a lasting one—or simply a mid-term course correction—will depend partly on Agnos's next moves and partly on the vigor with which critics of the police department hold the mayor's feet to the fire. ▼

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Thousands Were Expected At Protest

by Dennis Conkin

Police officials were expecting thousands of protesters bent on civil disobedience at the Oct. 6 ACT UP AIDS protest in the Castro, Police Chief Frank Jordan told the San Francisco Police Commission on Dec. 13.

Jordan told the commission, in response to written questions from Police Commissioner Gwenn Craig, that 151 officers, more than half of the city's available uniformed officers, were assigned to back up 32 TAC Squad officers who were present.

Although Jordan acknowledged that the ACT UP protest only drew 280 protesters, he said the Special Operations Bureau staffing decisions for protests were based on "the expected size of the crowd, the purpose of the gathering, the location, time and past experience" with the protest group.

ACT UP has a history of civil disobedience, according to Jordan, that included "spray painting graffiti and breaking a window or two." He also said the group had also overturned newsracks on occasion.

Jordan said that the department's Special Operations Bureau unsuccessfully attempted to contact ACT UP to learn their protest route, the number of protesters expected, how many monitors ACT UP would have for crowd control functions and whether civil disobedience was planned.

Many activist groups provide the police department such information prior to their protests, according to Jordan, and the information is used to determine whether traffic will be diverted along march lines, how many officers will be assigned to the event and whether demonstrators will be allowed to march in the street or kept on the sidewalk.

Jordan also told the commission that the decision that protesters could not march in the street followed unwritten police guidelines.

"Less than 300 does not warrant taking over the street," he said.

Jordan pointed out that although the group did not have a parade permit, Capt. Robert Fife, the department official designated the protest's event commander, did have discretionary power to allow demonstrators access to one or more lanes of traffic.

The decision is made on an event by event basis, according to Jordan.

According to the chief, six minutes after the ACT UP march arrived in the Castro, Fife made the decision that the demonstration had turned into an "unlawful assembly."

Jordan reported that 50 protesters were arrested, 41 for refusing to disperse. Nine protesters were arrested for charges that included battery, resisting arrest, malicious mischief and assault.

A decision was made to sweep the street rather than to make more arrests when a group of protesters came back to the scene, staged a sit in and items were thrown at the police, Jordan told the commission.

He acknowledged that entrance and egress from businesses might have been "temporarily disrupted as officers moved through the area." He said that the department had no knowledge that any officer entered homes or businesses in the area during the sweep.

Five officers were injured during the protest, according to Jordan. One officer was kicked in the jaw, three suffered scrapes and bruises, and two were spit on in the face and eyes. One demonstrator suffered "injuries of disputed origin that remain to be determined."

Jordan reminded the commission several times that he was proscribed from responding to specific allegations of misconduct because of Office of Citizen Complaints investigation was pending.

According to Barbara Atard, an OCC representative, 35 separate incidents of alleged police abuse at the Oct. 6 ACT UP protest were reported to the OCC. They form 13 separate complaints under investigation by the OCC.

"I'm not satisfied," Craig told the *Bay Area Reporter*, about Jordan's response to her questions.

Craig said she understood the constraints on Jordan's testimony because of pending litigation and departmental disciplinary charges arising from the Oct. 6 incident.

But she said that it was in Jordan's best interest to avoid a repeat of the incident—and that the commission wanted access to information that would give a "clear picture of the sequence of events" that led to police management decisions during the event.

Jordan said that he was "not completely satisfied" with the department's response. He said that a deputy chief or police commander should have been assigned to manage the event.

Following his own review of the incident, Jordan reassigned Capt. Fife to the Traffic Bureau. Fife was the department's designated event commander for the protest.

Capt. Richard Cairns of the TAC Squad was reassigned pending an investigation by the OCC that he assaulted a demonstrator.

Deputy Chief Jack Jordan, Chief Frank Jordan's brother, faced disciplinary charges because he failed to assign a deputy chief or police commander to coordinate the department's management of protesters. He retired rather than face disciplinary action.

Following Jordan's testimony, the commission voted to review a variety of police documents related to the protest, including the written operation orders, the department's own event management critique as well as the manual of guidelines, regulations and strategies the department has developed for managing crowd control at demonstrations and public events.

Public comment on Jordan's response to Craig's written interrogatory was not allowed because hearings on the protest were heard last month.

The commission also voted to hold hearings on Jan. 17 about police surveillance and infiltration of political groups in San Francisco. It also issued a general order to the department to refrain from using undercover and plainclothes officers to break up protests or arrest demonstrators.

Public Comments Heard

More than 150 people turned up at the Police Commission hearings on Dec. 13, to publicly comment on recommendations that the Tactical Operations Command squad be revamped.

The crowd was so large that it was shifted from the Commission chambers to a sixth-floor auditorium.

The police unit isn't getting a fair break in the public eye, TAC officers and supporters say. Detractors say the unit is out of control.

"They see officers with riot helmets and long sticks and they think TAC," said Officer Jerry Donovan.

The unit was relieved of crowd control responsibilities by Chief of Police Frank Jordan following the Oct. 6 ACT UP demonstrations. The squad was also reduced by Jordan from 70 officers to less than 50. TAC officers did not enjoy crowd control, according to Donovan. He told the commission that officers were relieved not to have the duty.

Part of the relief is that, Donovan said, although the crowd control policies change and officers get new orders and directives, "many times one boss will not know what the other boss is saying."

He told the commission that the department needed a "firm crowd control policy" backed up by the commission. He also said that officers had no idea what the commission wanted.

Monique Doryland, a member of the Pledge of Resistance, an activist group, told the commission that the TAC Squad "was

out of control" and that its officers were "racist, sexist and homophobic."

Doryland was injured with Dolores Huerta during the September 1988 anti-Bush protest at the St. Francis Hotel. The Office of Citizen Complaints ruled that a TAC squad officer used unnecessary force against Huerta when he delivered a baton thrust to her lower back breaking several ribs and rupturing her spleen.

"Violence at demonstrations is the complete responsibility of the police. If the TAC Squad and paid police spies did not show up, the violence would dramatically increase," Keith McHenry, a spokesman for Food Not Bombs, told the commission.

"It constitutes a take over of San Francisco by a brutal military command for its own goals. This is the kind of thing that people need to be finding out."

Thelma Broty, a TAC supporter, lambasted McHenry and other activists for their comments. "After listening to the people here this evening, I'm seeing why we need to keep the TAC Squad and eradicate the Board of Supervisors, other than Maher and Nelder. Hallinan is a Communist. His whole family is," said Broty.

Commissioner John Keker interrupted the public comment at one point to express his frustration.

"I'm a new commissioner. I don't know much about this issue. The level of discussion has been useless or worse. I would really like to hear something about the pro's and con's."

"The issue is not whether the TAC Squad should be abolished but who is going to do it," said John Crew, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union.

"It's not a pro- or anti-cop issue. Crowd control has already been taken away. The TAC Squad should be dismantled," he said.

Crew called provisions that the TAC Squad be called out for crowd control situations in the case of "violent disturbance and riots" a loophole in Jordan's reorganization of the unit.

A resolution of the Board of Supervisors based on recommendations from the San Francisco Bar Association and the Human Rights Commission calls for the abolishment of the TAC Squad.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gays and Christianity

A Historical/Personal Reflection on an Uneasy Association

by Steve Abbott

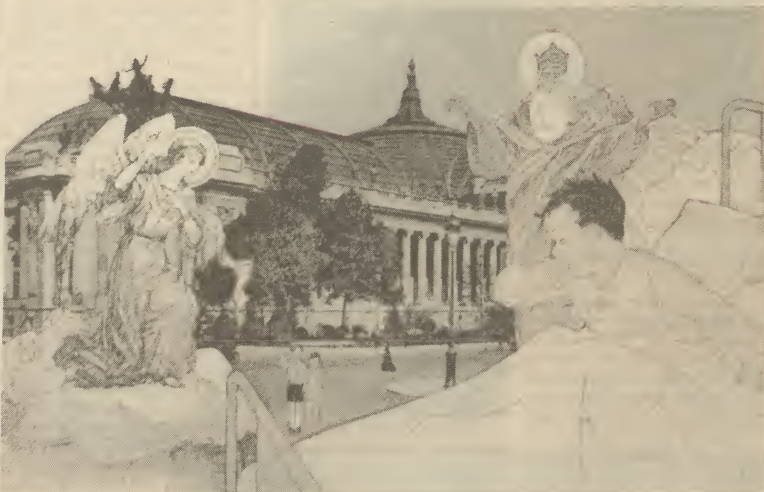
Silent Night, Holy Night—a beautiful song, but despite a spiritual resurgence among lesbians and gays, Christianity pushes buttons for us as Nazism does for Jews and the Klan for blacks.

There are good reasons for this. We look at attacks against gay rights led by Christian fundamentalists and the Catholic Church over the past 20 years and recall the homophobic violence visited upon homosexuals by the Christian Emperor Justinian and the medieval Inquisition.

But is this homophobia intrinsic to Judeo-Christian doctrine or a graft like mistletoe and the Yule log onto earlier attitudes? Is homophobia anywhere evidenced in Christ's teachings or is it an inessential aberration later tacked on to them and subject to change?

Pagan Regulation of Homosexuality

Because Judeo-Christian homophobia is so blatant, we would like to think it replaced a golden age of acceptance of homosexuals and lesbians in pagan cultures. This is not so.



"When Good Little Boys Die...."
Paris, France

Bible Epic Postcards Series 1986

The Sumerian *Gilgamesh* epic celebrates the love of two men but, as in later Greek and English Romantic poetry, such love may only have been acceptable be-

cause the men were heroes (who transcended ordinary social rules) and because the lover Enkidu dies.

The Pharaoh Akhenaton was

possibly homosexual but his reign was a brief aberration in several thousand years of Egyptian history. Confucianism in China enshrined the patriarchal

family and gives no social recognition to homosexuality at all. Japanese samurai could love boys but could only verbally express this love at the moment of death. Rumi's son poisoned his lover because their ecstatic affair was considered a family scandal.

In their studies of ancient Greek sexuality, based mainly on Plato's *Dialogues*, Michel Foucault and Julia Kristeva argue that Athenians felt considerable fear and anxiety over the "undomesticated eros" of homosexuality. It wasn't considered a "sin" or "unnatural" but it was considered a danger to moderate loving and social stability. It was acceptable only if done with slaves or geared to social usefulness (i.e., education for the boy in exchange for pleasure for the man).

In short, major pagan cultures we have records of were patriarchal and valorized family life. Homosexual behavior was accepted only if (a) the men also had families, (b) the sex was between older and younger men and would end when the younger man came of age, (c) was with

(Continued on page 30)



Scott Piddell, U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team, NYC, 1987.

(Photo: Bruce Weber)

To Have and Have Not

by John Karr

So here's a new collection of Bruce Weber's recent photographs, generously collected and beautifully reproduced in a volume called *Bruce Weber* (Alfred Knopf, \$50.00). I'm trying to figure them out and I'm having a hard time.

There's a double or triple whammy in Weber's photos. They engage your gonads with elegant promise long before the ease of their beauty and their discrete artfulness enchant the eye and impress the mind. And I'd sooner live in that enchantment than analyze its workings.

But let's look at the book itself first. Although laid out well, the lack of identification for the plates is irksome. There's an index at the end, but since the plates aren't numbered, it's hard to know what's what. Weber pretends to modesty, with written messages at beginning and end assuring us that his achievement is modest and that the models are the true achievers; his is merely the recording eye. Yet his removal of their names belies his words.

The book documents Weber's interests. This is predominantly young men, but also includes

nature, film stars, musicians, all sorts of athletes, and interesting combinations thereof. On a Hollywood backlot, hunky young men appear as scantily clad extras for some Roman epic, young men in wet underwear go swimming, and the startling profile of rock musician Chris Isaak is seen in his own bedroom (but not, unfortunately, in his wet underwear).

Most of all, the book is a gay photographer's celebration of the beauty of men. Their faces and bodies, yes, but also the geography of their limbs, the swirl of their hair, the shape of a nose or a muscle.

Yet it's evident that Weber isn't simply drooling over his subjects. He's devoted to them—remember his forward? And there's such awareness in Weber's photos. Although they ape Arbus, with their direct, unblinking gaze, they are not closed like hers. The life of these photos is open to us. And while they may appeal to our fantasies, what is disarming and personal about them, what helps them transcend the voyeuristic, is that Weber lets his models be open to

(Continued on page 36)

Suit Filed Against Art Center

by Jay Newquist

A lesbian artist filed suit last week in Contra Costa Superior Court against the Richmond Art Center for its alleged censorship of her gay artwork, *Truth and Consequences*, during a recent exhibition.

The Oakland-based law firm of Friend and Friedman filed the Dec. 12 suit on behalf of video and computer artist Kimberly Disney. The action seeks financial compensation for "profound and damaging effect on her [Disney's] art career" caused by the Richmond Art Center.

The lawsuit seeks to vindicate Disney's rights by unspecified means to control the presentation of her work. Disney fears she will gain a reputation for making "dirty movies" and be unable to compete for grant funding because her work was labeled "adult."

Disney had contributed a 30-minute interactive video to an exhibition that closed Nov. 19, which explored Disney's "coming out" as a lesbian publicly.

Zlata Baum, curator of the exhibition, considered the display too explicit, especially brief female nudity and graphic language. A warning card was placed on the exhibit urging parental discretion about the adult content.

Artwork's Tone Altered

The artwork was not removed from display, but Disney charged the placard changed the tone of her artwork and focused attention to the brief display of nudity.

Disney sought a public apology from the Richmond Art Center and she said adoption of a written display policy would have resolved the dispute.

Attorney Alissa Friedman said the Center responded belatedly to a request for an apology but only expressed distress at the unpleasantness the controversy had created.

Neither Zlata Baum or Michael Schwager, curator of the Center, could be reached for comment. Schwager contended last month, however, that Disney's work was not censored.

"There have been censorship issues in the arts recently and (in this case) we're not altering a work or removing it from view," Schwager said in a November interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We've done neither."

Disney said that "society cannot learn from art that has been redefined to suit the tastes of the public. I'm very concerned that in the 1990s gay artists are not going to have the freedom to display their work."

Discrimination Because of Orientation

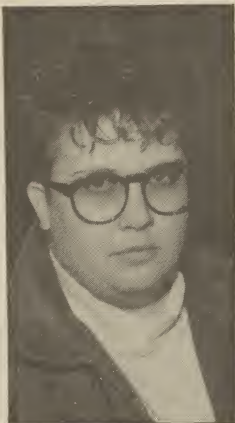
The complaint alleged the Center and the city of Richmond interfered with Disney's First Amendment rights and that the artist was discriminated against because of her sexual orientation.

In a letter to the Richmond Art Center, Disney's attorney explained the artist was angered the offending placard on her exhibit would misinterpret both its nudity and "coming out" agenda and therefore undermine the theme of the work.

Disney said her artwork dealt primarily with the risks taken by lesbians and gay men when they choose to come out of the closet and the fears surrounding the communication of intimate personal details of one's life.

The artwork communicated that it is important, according to Disney, for people to reveal those details so the ignorance that fuels prejudice against gay people, or against racial minorities or working class people, can be dissipated and replaced with understanding.

Attorney Friedman said she currently awaited a reply from the Richmond Art Center to the Superior Court suit.



(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Disney: "I'm very concerned that in the 1990s gay artists are not going to have the freedom to display their work."

Samuel Israel Wins 2nd Dan Allen Scholarship

by Marv. Shaw

With his sights set on a degree in physics, 27-year-old Samuel Israel is the recently named second recipient of the \$600 Dan Allen Memorial Scholarship at the City College of San Francisco. A Bay Area native, Israel has achieved a 3.81 grade average, completed various projects for the college's Gay and Lesbian Alliance, and earned strong recommendations from biologist Edmund Bedecarrax and counselor Sarah Thompson.

Ironically, Israel "had not felt overly qualified" for the scholarship, but with the encouragement of people like Jack Collins, the chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Studies Department, he applied. The selection committee is composed of acknowledged gay and lesbian staff and students, who found him the most worthy to follow Kimi Floethe, the first recipient last spring. The scholarship is part of the legacy of Dan Allen, a gay English teacher at CCSF who died of AIDS in 1985 after years of pioneering and promoting gay studies at the college.

Israel, the youngest of four children, had some of his elementary school education in a San Francisco school in which he was one of only a handful of white students. The fact that he is a Jew only accentuated his minority status.

Looking back, he now says, "It was a valuable but painful experience from which I took two important lessons: bitterness in the face of prejudice only gives rise to greater prejudice, and ultimately we are each reduced to a minority of one, where one's greatest strength is self-reliance."

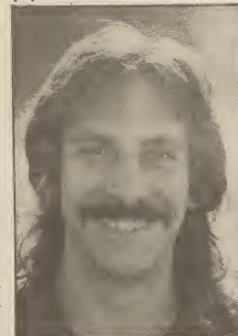
Formerly in Banking

After high school in Los Gatos, Israel plunged into the business world, concentrating especially on banking.

But banking with a gay context held little interest for him, so

after a brief but productive stint at computer programming, he determined to start college and work toward a major in physics.

In his previous education, Israel had really been more drawn to theater arts, but his interest in physics is abiding and, he now explains, really more practical. He envisions a career involving both teaching and research, with possible specialties in fractal or particle physics.



Samuel Israel.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Asked what the scholarship meant to him, Israel replied, "It legitimizes the gay presence in academia." Expanding on that idea, the winner asserted that "out" faculty acted as role models who could demonstrate that being publicly gay is compatible with professional life.

While Israel is emphatic that he has had no self-acceptance problems, he recognizes that for others, who may be ambivalent, reluctant, or uncomfortable, the validation that the scholarship conveys would be a boost to personal image. That sentiment was strongly seconded by Collins, who said, "The scholarship is even more important in the strengthening of self-esteem." Similar expressions were made by Thompson and Bedecarrax. ▼

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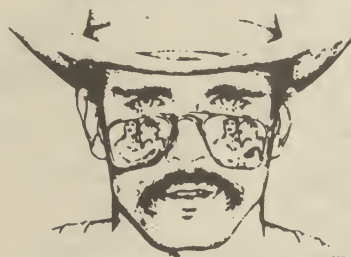


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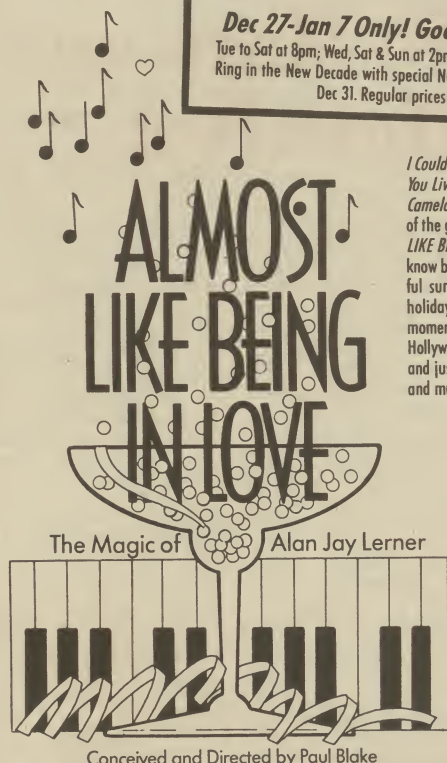
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One's a Star, One Isn't

by John F. Karr

What a double bill this is, I thought. Sharon McNight and Debbie Reynolds in one article. Well, they've never been seen in public at the same time, have they?

Oops—they have. Our publisher Bob Ross got them both onstage at his first Davies Hall AIDS benefit two years ago. There goes that angle; they're not the same person after all.

And their recent San Francisco appearances prove it again. Sharon's a star; Debbie's a wanna-be (and a pushy and smutty one at that). So the lady first.

Since Sharon McNight's November show at the Great American Music Hall was announced as her Farewell Concert, I was sure to be there even though I've seen her enough times to take her for granted. Smart and lucky me. It turned out not to be farewell, anyway. Although she's moved to L.A. (is she aiming at sitcom or movieland?) she'll still be performing here regularly. Could she forsake her home?

Or could we forsake her? I learned definitely not: this show was fresh, exuberantly performed and so good natured. It was so sassy and sincere, and the songs so well-chosen and sung, that I knew where I wanted to be New Year's Eve—back at the CAMH with Sharon (tickets are still available).

A Woman Possessed

Sharon McNight is a woman possessed. "I'm Sharon McNight," she shouts. "I'm from San Francisco, and I'm a real woman." Time was when Sharon's drag queen impersonation was frightening; she was, after all, a real woman. But like all the other talents that come exploding out of her, Sharon's got this one down. She uses it when it's entertaining, and isn't stuck in it. So she can do impersonations of a drag queen, or a woman or a man, or Carol Channing, Bette Davis and even Sharon McNight.

It's just a whirlwind tour through her show, folks. The territory she's staked out, from waif to iron clad belter (sometimes both within the single phrase of a song) is her impressive strength. High voltage stuff. Boy, can she mess around while she's knocking a song out. I don't want to get analytical here, but the levels of textuality and identity run pretty deep here.

As befitting a Farewell Concert, Sharon included her classics in her November show. And what a large number there are—the end of her show was like Judy at Carnegie Hall, as she worked through four showstoppers that have been her calling cards.

And the other songs were wonderful, too—a lullaby version of "Crying," a delicious "Birth of the Blues" ingeniously wrapped around "Rhapsody in Blue," a very naughty and wisely underplayed "I Never Do Anything Twice," plus some country western delights and some off-Broadway discoveries. And all of this with her raucous humor and good time attitude—the parage of her ten year old classics at the end could have become a nostalgic remembrance of party days gone by, but in Sharon's healthy and loving hands were a message that there still are party days. The next one's New Year's Eve—with Sharon.

Debbie Does Molly

And then there's Debbie. It would be much more fun to dish into the stories that allegedly link Debbie and Agnes Moorehead, or those that raise an eyebrow over the proclivities of Debbie's daughter, than to hatchet Debbie's performance in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. But there have been things left unsaid.



One is, one isn't: Debbie Reynolds, left, and Sharon McNight.

By this time you know that Debbie's effortful and dull, that the direction, choreography, and sets are strictly bus and truck, and that the leading man's a

dream (tall and handsome, Ron Raines sings full and virile; you get the feeling he could fill the theatre even without the microphones).

Here's what you don't know. First, the Chorus Boy Watch, a public service from this reviewer only. There's the expected complement of cuties in this show—a gypsy-black haired singing dream who knocks out the vocal in "Belly Up to the Bar, Boys," a sandy blond with moustache, a tall and lean dark haired singer, and others. Then there's Gene Ross and Robert Loftin as Molly's brothers, both cute as buttons and excellent dancers. Their jig is the show's only high point.

Second, and most important. Nobody has written about the show itself. Debbie's version has been treated as if this is what was originally seen on Broadway. Fat chance. The original was barely serviceable, its success lying in the alternating combination of brashness and charm in its text and songs, and as embodied by Tammy Grimes. But even though not a classic, it hardly deserves the bashing it's getting at Debbie's hands.

This version was mounted to satisfy Debbie's image of herself as a star. But she didn't trust the original to be good enough for her. Or she wasn't good enough to play the original. While most of the dialogue remains intact, Debbie has removed the show's

(Continued on page 30)

Alex Stone HE'S GOT IT ALL!

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Gallery Owners With a Mission Bring Art to the Castro

by Wendell Ricketts

When David Seibold and Luiz da Rosa began renovating the long-empty San Francisco Repertory building at 19th and Collingwood, the neighbors were naturally curious. After explaining their plan for an art gallery to any numbers of passersby, da Rosa and Seibold might have been getting a little impatient with questions, or maybe the anticipation was just making them prankish. In any case, Seibold finally told one inquisitive woman, "It's going to be a Taco Bell."

Luckily, Art Lick Gallery opened before anyone had a chance to organize a petition to keep tacky fast-food franchises out of the Castro. But there was never any need for worry: In the four months since Art Lick opened, Seibold and da Rosa have proven their intentions to be anything but crass.

During these first months, Seibold and da Rosa have presented a quick succession of exhibits from the work of both local and national artists. The shows have included every medium from sculpture to photography to textiles to airbrush, watercolor, and fingernail polish. Their artists have painted on masks, bottle caps, furniture, canvas—and even on da Rosa and Seibold.

For Christopher Enzi's show of male nudes, Seibold and da Rosa allowed themselves to be splattered and daubed with fluorescent paint, posed alongside thistles and snake skins, and photographed under black light. The result, Enzi's series of giant color photos, was a startling collection of images, a thoroughly modern exploration of an ancient sort of paganism.

First Group Show

Now, at the end of a successful debut season, Art Lick is hosting *14 Artists*, its first group show. The exhibit, which runs through mid-January, includes pieces by da Rosa and Seibold, as well as by local artists Enzi, Donald Harvey, Heidi Marks, Jerome Caja, and Steve Connnett, among others.

Described as "a group show of individuals," *14 Artists* is both a retrospective and a preview of artists whose work will be on solo exhibition at Art Lick during 1990.

A bright, sunny room with high ceilings, the gallery space at Art Lick isn't large enough to be overwhelming, yet not so small that one feels pressured into unnatural relations with a strange piece of sculpture or an unfamiliar canvas.

On any given day, Seibold and da Rosa may be found there in

jeans and work boots, their hands stained with varnish. (Art Lick is their workshop, too.) The work hanging on Art Lick's walls sometimes seems a bit raw, as if the paint could still be wet. The work, in other words, looks as if an artist had recently touched it with real, live hands.

Explains Seibold, "Our goal in opening Art Lick was to provide an alternative to 'downtown' gallery spaces—places that sometimes present art work as being so precious and intimidating that it's really unapproachable."

Art Lick, in contrast, is anything but daunting. And, if anyone were even tempted to become haughty in the presence of art, he need only look beneath his feet. There, too, is evidence of Seibold's and da Rosa's deft humor.

Among their many skills, Seibold and da Rosa are artisans of the "faux" finish, and they have designed for the floor of Art Lick a painted pavement of flagstones. It is *trompe l'oeil* at its fanciful best, and "fool the eye" is precisely what it does.

So three-dimensional is the effect, in fact, that one almost feels the need to tread carefully. Almost, that is, until you spot the occasional lamb chop that Seibold and da Rosa have also painted in among the stones.



Luiz da Rosa, left, and David Seibold.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

As in most galleries, background music often plays softly on the stereo, but an Art Lick remix is likely to combine Bach, the theme from *The Munsters*, and "Brazil," that perky tune made popular, for a second time, by Terry Gilliam's film of the same name.

And speaking of segues, Brazil is also the country of da Rosa's birth and youth. There, da Rosa says, he aligned himself early on with the "black sheep" of his family, a once-removed line of cousins that included musicians, painters, actors and assorted other vagabonds.

Years in Jesuit school contributed to da Rosa's budding aesthetic and, apparently, fueled his desire to escape, for it was soon after graduation that he left Brazil and began to travel throughout South America, eventually making his way to Europe and the United States.

Seibold, in contrast, has lived in the same house on 19th Street for 12 years, and has long dreamed of bringing a gallery like Art Lick to the Castro.

"A lot of times, art—meaning painting, sculpture, photography and all those visuals—helps to realign a neighborhood," Seibold says. "Often, it's the different imagery that artists bring into everyday life that helps define the new culture movement."

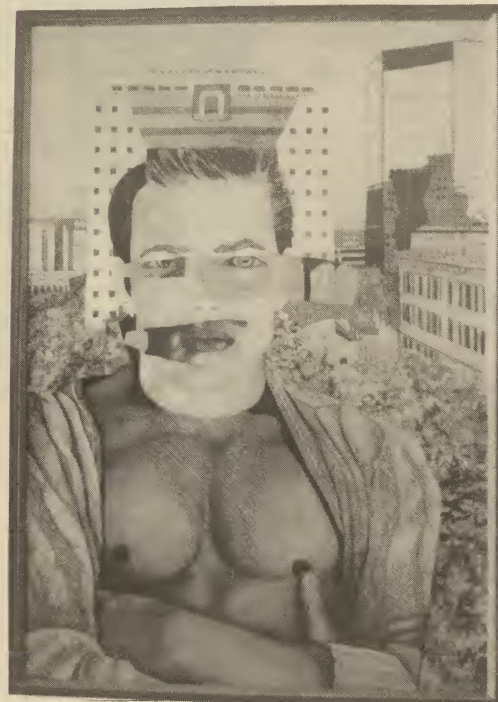
But, before things get too heady, keep in mind that da Rosa and Seibold are also collaborating on a gorilla mural for the wall outside the produce market at 19th and Castro. And, as much as they love talking about art, they haven't got much patience for "art talk" (a conversational ordeal in which, instead of life imitating art, art begins to imitate an issue of *Spy* magazine). (Continued on page 55)

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David Seibold's "Portlandia."

(Courtesy of the artist)

"Hybrid" Garnerers High Praise

by Patrick Hoctel

Fenton Johnson's first novel, *Crossing the River*, now in its second printing, is garnering the kinds of reviews that writers light candles for. Writer Sallie Bingham has praised the book as "an imaginative feat... in modern literature," and the author, 36, has come in for his share of the laurels, with *Publishers Weekly* calling him "a storyteller of distinction."

The heroine of Johnson's book is Martha Bragg Pickett, a red-haired Protestant of Confederate blood who "crosses the river" to marry into the closed Catholic community on the other side of her small-town bridge. Johnson, a native Kentuckian, tells his story, loosely based on his mother's life, with a keen ear for the speech of the region and ample humor.

His tale covers 20-plus years in a life that might have been dreary and depressing in other hands, but here has its own quirky charm and is, in fact, a testament to a spirit that refuses to say "uncle."

Johnson, a local gay writer and editor who teaches creative writing at San Francisco State, has been the recipient of many literary awards, including a Stegner fellowship at Stanford and an NEA grant.

He is currently working on a collection of short stories focusing on rural gays, and a second novel, told from a gay man's point of view, is on the drawing board. His article on the lives of marijuana growers in central Kentucky was featured in last Sunday's *New York Times Magazine*.

★ ★ ★

I know a bit about your family history. You're the youngest of eight children in a Kentucky family that's been making whiskey, according to your press release, "longer than memory." There are some similarities between your life—and your family's—and the novel. How autobiographical would you say *Crossing the River* is?

Most first novels tend to be highly autobiographical, but I'd deflect the question by saying that all work is autobiographical. What is particularly interesting when I go back to Kentucky and encounter my enormous family is that they say, "Well, I know who Martha is, and I know who Bernie is, but I don't know who Leo is." And I try to say that they're me; they're all just different versions of myself.

I certainly drew upon some details, most particularly from my mother's life. I had enough intuitive or cultural sense of how to tell a story, but I was looking for a place of dramatic conflict.

Naturally it occurred to me that my mother, who was raised a Protestant and converted into an intensely narrow-minded, intensely provincial Catholic community, must have had a terrible struggle to face. Beyond that, the rest is considerably distorted from the real facts, if not completely fictionalized.

What's your mother's response been?

It's kind of funny. She got the manuscript a long time ago, and about a year after she got the manuscript, I found it in a desk drawer, with half of it obviously read and half of it not read. But

in the way of our family, nothing was said about that until last Christmas when I broke my ribs [in a car accident].

The next day, either from lack of something to say or out of sheer agony, I said, "What did you think of the novel?" I can't quite recreate her comment, but it was basically a non-comment. Not that she didn't like it, but it was too personal for her. People, men or women, don't deal well with anything that is that personal in the South, especially the rural South.

Even though you live in San Francisco, you spend a part of each year in Kentucky. Does that help your writing, help keep the memories fresh?

I really believe I'm condemned—if that's the right word—to be a hybrid between the two places for the rest of my life because I love them both very, very much. At this point I like to think I belong to both of them; sometimes I suspect I belong to neither.

The advantage of that, and perhaps a large part of my reason for going back to Kentucky, is that I find creative inspiration, if that's not too high-falutin' a term, in the tension of being between the two. In being neither fox nor hound.

I contrast this place with that place and that place with this place, and even though it makes me slightly schizophrenic, I enjoy each for its very different virtues, and I appreciate its very different vices. I just wish the two weren't quite so far apart.

Your novel is set in the South in the area, the Kentucky knobs, where you grew up, and it has a gossipy Southern feel to it. Do you consider yourself a regionalist or, more specifically, a Southern writer?

Although these days I'm deliberately trying, to a certain degree, to set some of my fiction outside the South, specifically in California, I'd say yes. Because there is a rhythm and a cadence to speaking and thus to writing that one gets as a result of growing up in the South that marks one's writing from then through to its completion. And it's not only something I wouldn't want to lose, it's something I actively cultivate.

The advantage that people from the South have in writing is that there is a closer connection between the spoken and the written word. People who speak with accents speak self-consciously. In the age of television, they cannot not know they have an accent, yet they guard it and maintain it. That presence of an accent teaches you to love language, to love the actual physical act of making words in a way that the rest of the country doesn't have.

It's no mistake that the language of the South (and the language of Southern writers) tends to be more image-oriented and less spare. So, in that sense, no matter where I live, I would call myself a Southern writer because of that heritage.

The main character in *CTR*, Martha Bragg Pickett, is a woman who ages from 22 to 45 in the course of the novel, gets married, has a baby, has an affair, is widowed, and loses her son to the big city. Was it difficult get-

ting into this woman's head and writing from a so-called "woman's perspective"?

The character appeared to me as a woman and it never occurred to me to do otherwise. The challenge is in creating a three-dimensional character. That is a challenge which is enormous and not to be underestimated... and it isn't any greater or smaller for the writer because the character happens to be a woman or black or whatever.

In fact, I think gay men and lesbians have an advantage in that process because, at least for me, my own experience was not belonging at all to that society I was raised in. I spent my time watching everybody else, listening to everybody else, which was a protective gesture on my part. As long as I was listening and watching, I wasn't required to talk, and therefore I wasn't revealing anything.

As a result—as a gay man—I found myself again and again [pause] among the women. The men would be in one room talking hunting and football, which I wasn't extremely interested in, and the women would be in another talking gossip, which I was interested in. That experience made it more logical for this main character of my first novel to be a woman and also gave me a place to work from in creating a woman character.

There are no gay characters in your novel, and I noticed that the press release from your publisher



Fenton Johnson: "I certainly consider myself a gay writer."

stressed your Southern background but didn't mention that you're a gay man. What do you think of the term "gay writer," and do you consider yourself one?

I certainly consider myself a gay writer, regardless of whether my characters are gay or not. When you go see *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, there are no

overtly gay characters. Yet the play, I would contend, could only have been written by a gay author.

So you do believe in a gay sensibility.

Absolutely. Although there is a tendency, among people in San Francisco in particular, exactly because there is a community

(Continued on page 56)

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Star

(Continued from page 27)

most novel song, the gospel patter number, "Are You Sure?"

Couldn't she do it? Or did she have to make more room for the smutty asides she sprinkles through the show and which were not in the author's script? This version opens with an outhouse joke, and then allows Debbie to make numerous tit and urination jokes. This is what the star thinks makes her endearing.

Songs that originally existed to allow for scene changes have been removed, and the second act European segment streamlined. These are acceptable improvements, yet the show still runs more than full length.



Ron Raines.

And was it Debbie who removed the original show's clever segue that took Molly from an in-

competent to holy roller piano player in the "Belly Up" number? Shorn of this and its other clevernesses and charms, Debbie's version of the show needs to be retitled *The Relentless Molly Brown*. If played straight and closer to home there might have been life in the old girl yet. But not with Debbie's self-serving portrayal. There's not a second of her assumption that isn't sham, there's no sincerity. She plays the show fast, loud and cheap—qualities it lacked until she got to it. She's not so much starring in the show as bringing it down to her level.

Naturally, she got a standing ovation opening night, and naturally she quipped, "It was nothing." That's the only thing she got right all night. ▼

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Christianity

(Continued from page 25)

slaves, or (d) was amongst the warrior class. Even where homosexuality was acceptable in Native American or New Guinean cultures, it was still restricted by religious and social rules. Almost no pagan culture has considered homosexuality as a "right," or as acceptable as a widespread, lifelong orientation. Because these societies were patriarchal, lesbianism is seldom mentioned at all.

Judeo-Christian Homophobia

Whereas pagan cultures accepted same sex love and lust as natural human impulses that needed some outlet, if also social regulation, the Hebrews were the first people to found their identity on a prohibition against homosexuality—and this, somewhat late in their history. That God himself had enshrined heterosexuality as His law gave a new spiritual and vehemently fanatical dimension to homophobia.

Early Christians took on this Jewish viewpoint gradually making Dionysius and other sexually tolerant pagan gods into "Satan." Like many converts, St. Paul sought to outdo even Jewish Christians in his anti-sexual fanaticism. But despite the extreme anti-sexual fanaticism of early Church fathers such as Origen and the somewhat more moderate asceticism of St. Augustine (who prayed "Lord help me—but not yet"), the highly respected historian John Boswell has documented cases of early Christian homosexual lovers who were canonized as saints and martyrs and of Christian rites solemnizing love vows between men. Boswell argues that up until the 12th century, Christianity was not intrinsically homophobic. Acceptance of homosexuality varied depending on the prevailing social climate.

Canonical Christian texts make almost no overt reference to homosexuality. In the Old Testament, stories of Joseph the dream interpreter and of David and Jonathan can be read as valorizing the gay shaman figure and same sex love respectively. Only the story of Sodom and Gomorrah seems to condemn homosexuality; some biblical scholars have argued God destroyed these cities *not* because of homosexuality per se but because lust (the attempted rape of the angel) blinded people to the message of God's love, part of which would be to give hospitality to strangers.

The New Testament says even less about homosexuality. That John was "the disciple Jesus loved most" valorizes love, if not sex, between men. Jesus taught the two most important commandments were to love your neighbor as yourself and to love God above all things.

The most influential Catholic theologian, Thomas Aquinas, argued that sins of the flesh were far less serious than sins of the spirit (e.g., pride, self-righteousness, etc.). Ironically, Aquinas's own work was placed on *The Index of Forbidden Books* for 50 years after his death because he utilized the philosophy of the pagan Aristotle. I say "ironically" because it is a misreading of Aristotle's theory of Natural Law (long since discredited by scientists and anthropologists) which has been most widely used by Catholics and Communists to condemn homosexuality.

To my knowledge, not until the recent Vatican letter issued during Pope John Paul II's 1987 visit to San Francisco has the Church issued an "official teaching" on homosexuality. This letter is not an *ex cathedra* teaching (i.e., the Pope speaking infallibly on a key doctrine of Catholic faith). Other respected Catholic theologians can and do hold different views.

(Continued on page 46)

The Beat Ballot

by David Taylor-Wilson

This is your last chance to add your input to our upcoming "Best of the '80s" chart. Fill out the ballot that appears at the end of this week's column and mail it in right away. Vote your favorite choices of the past decade and then watch for the results in the first week of January. And yes, for those of you who've been asking, yours truly will be running down a list of personal faves, something extra special for the bottom of the bird cage.

On the News Beat

Warner Brothers reports that C.J. Ramone has been named the newest addition to the Ramones line-up. C.J. will be replacing Dee Dee Ramone, who recently departed the group.

Readers of Sassy magazine are in for a treat. The current issue, which is available on newsstands through Jan. 10, includes a single from R.E.M., previously unavailable in the U.S. The flexidisc features a cover of the Syd Barrett song, "Dark Globe." Barrett is the founder of Pink Floyd and originally wrote and recorded the song on his 1974 solo album, *The Madcap Laughs*. The R.E.M. rendition was previously available only in the U.K. as the B-side of a former single release.

Just in time to fill up those Christmas stockings, Reprise Records has digitally remastered the Jimi Hendrix legacy onto ten compact discs.

In the Studio

After reportedly recording enough new material for a new album, Bryan Adams has had a change of heart and dumped the entire project and is starting over from scratch. Mutt Lange is producing.

Caron Wheeler is the fabulous voice that has been fronting the group Soul II Soul on the hits "Keep On Movin'" and "Back to Life." Wheeler has now been signed to EMI Records as a solo artist and has plans for an album to debut in the spring.

The great jazz diva Dianne Reeves is currently working on a new album. George Duke is producing. You may remember a few months back we told you what a great album *At Last*, by the legendary Lou Rawls, is. Reeves is featured on Rawls' LP in a couple of duets, including the title track. If you haven't added this LP to your collection yet, you're missing out on a gem. "Amadio Mio" by Grace Jones is being given the remix treatment in

preparation for a 12" release.

Also in the remix stages is "Keep it Together" from Madonna. Master of the remix, Shep Pettibone is at the controls.

Erasure is recording a cover of the '70s disco classic "Supernature," which was originally done by Euro-disco-king Cerrone.



Erasure.

Tubular Beats

If ever there was a voice so pure, so clear, so melodic as to be practically angelic, it must have been Judy Collins. If white bread could sing, it would sound like Collins. Now don't get me wrong, that's a compliment, I like white bread. Throughout the month of December, she stars in *Judy Collins: From the Heart* on the Showtime cable TV network. A half-hour leukemia benefit concert, it is not to be missed.

Collins' usual standards of excellence in performance need no introduction here. Her trademark "Send in the Clowns" is here along with "Cats in the Cradle," "Both Sides Now," and a wonderful a cappella performance.

Check local listings for dates and times.

The Steady Beat of Time

It was this week in 1955 that the Johnny Cash classic "Folsom Prison Blues" was released.

The year 1961 saw "Big Bad John" by Jimmy Dean become the first C&W record to be certified gold.

Sam Cooke is murdered in 1964 by a woman who claimed that Cooke was trying to rape her. She is released after the court rules the murder as justifiable homicide.

Grace Slick appears as a guest on the *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* TV show in 1968. She performs a number in blackface and raises a black-gloved fist, the then symbol of Black Power. The show is cancelled shortly thereafter.

In 1971, "American Pie" by Don McLean is released. In 1974, Rolling Stones guitarist Mick Taylor exits the group, and in 1977, John Travolta dances his way onto the silver

screen in the New York City premiere of *Saturday Night Fever*. "Megatron Man" by San Francisco disco master Patrick Cowley is released in 1981. It is the highest charted new single of its debut week. Meanwhile, Cowley's "Menergy/I Wanna Take You Home" is still in command of the national dance charts with 18 weeks logged.

In 1982, with labelmate Patrick Cowley firmly rooted in the Top Ten of the national dance charts with "Mind Warp," Sylvester's new single "All I Need" debuts in the Top 40 of the national dance charts with a bullet. Sylvester dies of AIDS in 1988.

The Yuletide Beat

I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who contributes all year long to supply the lifeline of The Beat. Thanks to all the publicity directors at the record companies, the promotion departments, the artist's managers, the record companies, all the local DJs and the nightclubs. And of course, an extra big thanks to all the readers. Keep the cards and letters coming, compliments or complaints, it's always good to know what's on your mind.

May all the blessings of Christmastime enrich you and yours with a spirit that will last throughout the New Year.

The Rear View

Five years ago this week, "Jump!" by Van Halen was the no. 1 song across the nation. Ten years ago this week, Styx had the no. 1 single with the ballad, "Babe." ▼



Showtime special for Judy Collins.

THE BEAT BALLOT

Cast your vote in each of the categories below, then clip and mail your ballot to:

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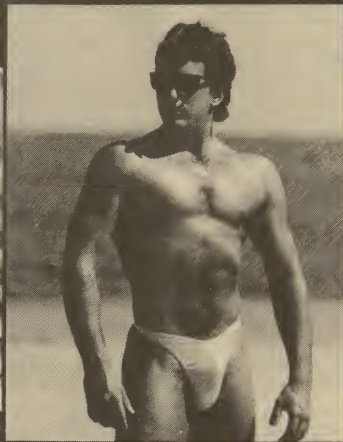
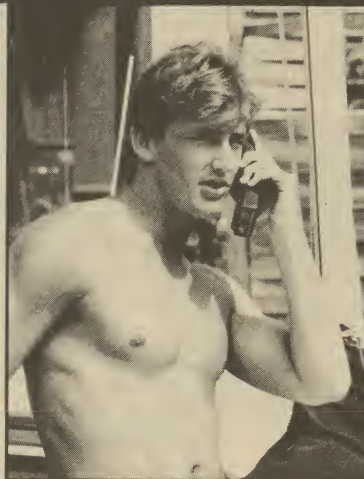
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What Real Lesbians Look Like

On Saturday, Dec. 16, LAVA (Lesbian Audio Video Artists) presented their first screening of independent work by lesbian artists at the San Francisco Art Institute. Meeting as a collective since June 1989, LAVA hopes to encourage both collaborative and individual work by lesbian filmmakers and scheduled their screening partly to attract more women to the group.

Their flyer—headlined "Lesbo Video" and featuring a grinning,

barebreasted woman—attracted a large, diverse audience, a surprise to the organizers, who had missed the deadlines of most of the local papers and were expecting a much smaller crowd. They promised to put out better publicity for their next event but warned the audience not to expect another screening too soon.

"This was all we had ready to show," joked Lisa Ginsburg. We'll have to do some more work before we can put on another program."

The program was brief—only about an hour—but the audience was not disappointed with the ten selections the group had prepared.

Carolina Streeter, one of the stars of *Joystick Blues*, welcomed everyone by pulling on elbow-length lavender gloves and passing around popcorn and apple cider. *Joystick Blues*, a witty, explicit piece by Lisa Ginsburg and Miki Goralsky, turned out to be one of the most popular of the videos shown. It featured Kelly,



Dorian Harding-Morick: *New and Improved*.



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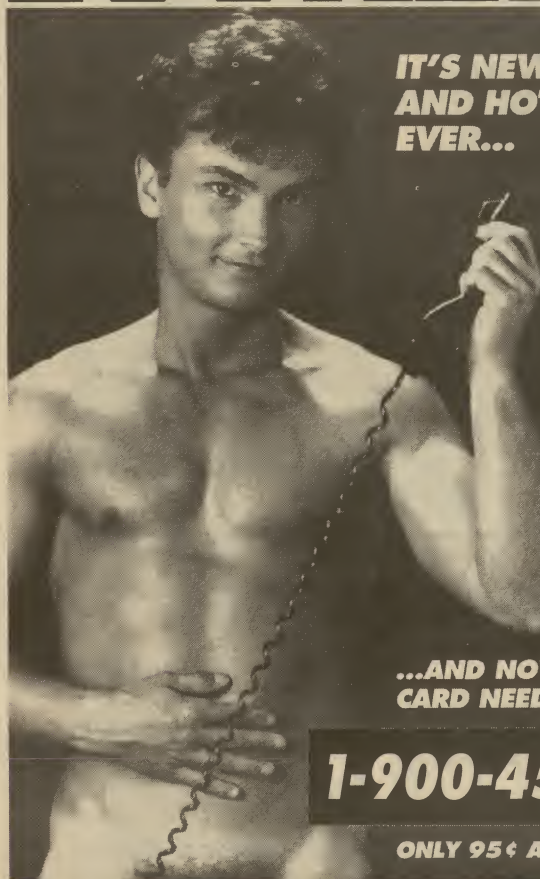
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Once the object is safely buried in the back garden, the dog returns to sit innocently by the bed while Lola gropes vainly around under the mattress looking for their toy. A hasty trip to the kitchen to find something to use instead turns up only a half-rotten and decidedly limp cucumber—a visual pun that had the audience howling with laughter.

A Critique of Consumer Culture

A critique of consumer culture

was the subtext behind a number of the videos, including *New and Improved* by Dorian Harding-Morick and the untitled piece by Goralsky dated Fall 1989. Also in this vein, *The Lesbian Impress Card* by Susan Bahns and Ingrid Wilhite featured a dismally unsuccessful young dyke who becomes instantly irresistible once she gets her Lesbian Impress Card in the mail. "Buy, spend, consume," the soundtrack repeats as our heroine acquires a new haircut, leather jacket, motorcycle and various devastating girlfriends.

New and Improved parodies those television ads in which an unsuspecting housewife is asked to try a new product. In this case the product is lesbianism and

(Continued on page 46)

Up Against a Master

by Jay Newquist

There are so many young men touted as "the new Olivier" in England these days that most people would simply rather have the old one alive.

Kenneth Branagh, the latest to doff the mantle of such hyperbole, is one of the first since Lord Olivier's death to challenge the master on his own turf—a case of dueling filmed versions of *Henry V*.

The 1944 masterpiece from Olivier flushed against Branagh's 1989 contender of *Henry V* (at the Bridge) proves once again that Shakespeare has "legs," especially on film, only if he is constantly viewed from different angles and constantly reassessed.

Accessible Shakespeare

All this may prove meddlesome or irrelevant if one doesn't quickly cajole the people who wouldn't be caught dead seeing a Shakespearean film. Branagh's *Henry V* is that true rarity: it is accessible to the general public as this genre will likely ever get.

The Olivier version was all bright color, beaming light and filmed elegantly as a shrewd piece of propaganda during World War II, when the exploits of a boy-king bashing the French in 1415 could buoy sagging spirits on the homefront.

Olivier got splash and dash on his \$800,000 budget as the knight for all seasons, but you know where his head was when he reportedly spent a quarter of that budget on battle scenes in Ireland.

Olivier showed no moodiness or indecision or even the unsavory aspects of Henry's psyche to stall the throne, but Olivier did lace his *Henry V* with satire just to prove he didn't make the film for British Intelligence.



Kenneth Branagh.

Branagh, however, approaches his particular clump of British acreage with a \$10 million budget and tells the story of a young king growing up slightly absurd, who on the one hand can murder a former drinking companion and on the other lift a dead boy in his arms from the battlefield.

The viewer gets the shuttlescock effect as Branagh's Henry flops on either side of the net, a mature man whose steel gaze seems to acknowledge the treachery around him, but also a boy who is constantly processing what it takes to be a leader and how much charity and ruthlessness to let show in a moment of naked emotion.

If Olivier was the lithe, elegant and somewhat fey Henry, Branagh plays the young king as the chunky fullback all muddled from an end run at Agincourt. Branagh is not matinee idol material, thankfully, yet he possesses an undeniable physicality, the "mensch factor" that eluded Olivier.

When Derek Jacobi (as the Chorus), who prepares the viewer for the play as film, throws open

(Continued on page 55)

'Nutcracker' Notes

by Keith White

The list of ballets that might actually merit annual performance would not, unfortunately, include the *Nutcracker*, the only ballet that keeps coming back, year after year, in every company that performs it. (And given its seasonal appeal to children and other neophyte audiences, every ballet company that can acquire December theater space does perform it. *Dance Magazine* lists 119 *Nutcracker* productions playing across America this month.)

Relying mightily upon our ability to suspend disbelief, the *Nutcracker* is structurally weak, with all the drama in Act I and nearly all the dancing in Act II—and no logical transition between them. There is usually considerable pageantry in the staging, depending on the company's particular budget, while choreography takes a back seat to spectacle.

The music, though it is not Tchaikovsky's best ballet score, is pretty much unassailable, lifting the *Nutcracker* far above other Christmas ballets that have been conceived from time to time as an alternative.

But the juvenile/fantasy elements of the story leave the *Nutcracker* susceptible to excruciating design excesses, and it is in this that our local productions are most at fault. The San Francisco Ballet's Act II "Land of Sweets" is so vibrantly colored by its designer, Jose Varona, that it could give you a headache on a bad day.

Lest I sound too Scrooge-like, I admit to seeing at least two *Nutcracker* performances a year, since some essential part of my Christmas spirit is still tied to this demodé classic. And at the San Francisco Ballet, the *Nutcracker* is more than a holiday attraction. Here, it opens the season, arriving after the company's seven-month local hiatus and preceding, by a few weeks, the regular repertory.

It is also the hallmark of the San Francisco Ballet's school, whose excellent children appear as often as the scenario allows. Its community outreach programs are funded with six-figure corporate grants. And, during the ballet's recent years of high dance turnover, the *Nutcracker* has been the unpromoted occasion for the debuts of dancers who either were, or would become, principals: Ludmila Lopukhova in 1985, Timothy Fox in 1986, Karin Averty and Anthony Randazzo in 1987, and Sabina Alleman in 1988.

Numerous Debuts

This year the debuts are so numerous it will be impossible to see them all. During the first week alone, diminutive Galina Alexandrova, who comes to us from the Bolshoi, danced the snow scene pas de deux with Edward Ellison. Ex-Joffrey dancer Ashley Wheatler, a new soloist who is likely to figure very prominently during the coming season, partnered Sabina Alleman in the grand pas de deux. At a student matinee I managed to catch Moroccan Jais Zinoun, the tall, goodlooking

young First Prize winner of the 1988 Prix de Lausanne, in the snow pas de deux with promising corps dancer Katita Waldo.

And the new man about whom the public will probably be most curious, ex-Kirov dancer Yuri Zhukov (also hired as a soloist), performed both the snow and grand pas de deux last week, with Kathleen Mitchell and Joanna Berman, respectively. I saw the latter.

The student matinee I attended revealed just what really appeals to children. In Act I they like the dancing bear (I like the bear myself); the enlargement of the Christmas tree; the death of the Mouse King; the scenic transition in the Land of Snow.

In the Land of Sweets, the major domo with the ice-cream-cone sleeves gets a giggle as does Mother Ginger. Everyone likes the Russian Cossack dance that old Anatole Vilzak choreographed for three bouncy men. But the corps choreography—some of it lovely—leaves children pretty cold.

Joanna Berman must be as gracious a partner as her stage



Back for another season: San Francisco Ballet's *Nutcracker*.

personality suggests, since she has so often been chosen to break in new male dancers in important roles. As the Sugarplum Fairy, with Yuri Zhukov her Cavalier, Berman radiated good-natured generosity in a technically astute performance that was cautious without appearing so.

Zhukov looked fairly raw both in his solo dancing and the partnering, which is difficult and awkward even for dancers who are accustomed to it. Very handsome in a pale, youthful, pretty

way, Zhukov's presence made me think of Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*. One can only hope he has the intelligence and flexibility to make the transition to American ballet ways—difficult for most Russians—in a company that is only moderately nurturing to foreigners.

Leaving the *Nutcracker*, my hope was that the children of all ages who flock to its 36 performances will see at least one other ballet program this season. It would be a tragedy for anyone to

get the idea that what we see as *Nutcracker* represents ballet's full range of expression. See it as a Christmas card from friends with whom you'll communicate more than once a year. ▼

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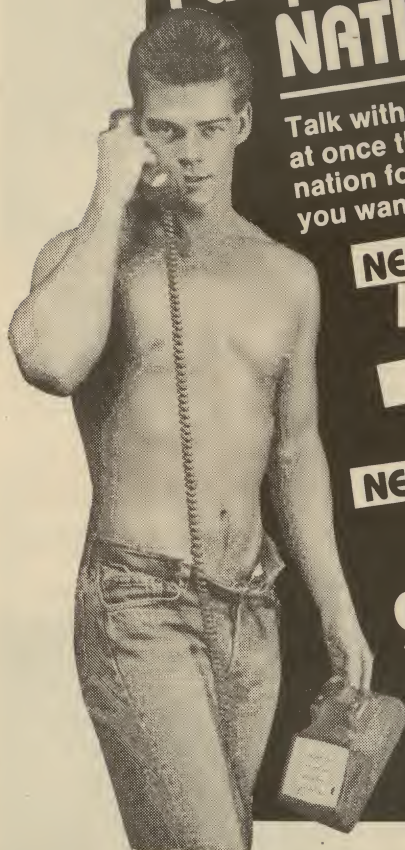
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S.F. Symphony's 'Messiah'

Safe, Sleepy and Swift

by Philip Campbell

If death and taxes are certainties in life, then, on a happier note, so are seasonal performances of Handel's great oratorio *Messiah*. The San Francisco Symphony dispatched their annual slate of concerts last week with the expected blend of professionalism and grace.

A safe and eclectic blend of stylistic approaches and an uninspired quartet of soloists soothed exhausted shoppers and surely pleased musical conservatives, but the results were undeniably bland, despite numerous cuts intended to speed the often unwieldy text to an early conclusion.

The choice of Canadian Mario Bernardi as conductor was also an uncontroversial move. His credits include extensive operatic experience and his treatment of the soloists indicated his willingness to avoid recent developments in "authentic" performance practices, allowing the singers more conventional decorations, without the fleet, lighter touch espoused by baroque specialists such as John Eliot Gardiner, Christopher Hogwood or Trevor Pinnock.

No real problem there, if the rest of the performing forces are permitted an equally plump sound. However, in a timid concession to authenticity Bernardi scaled down the orchestra, and the 75 San Francisco Symphony Chorus members under director Vance George were left to their own devices to provide some much needed moments of power and glory.

They were defeated, in part, by the acoustics of Davies Hall, often sounding curiously recessed, and a new approach to pronunciation—biting consonants and stressing coloratura with intrusive aitches—spoiled some usually sure-fire moments.

Dahl Pleases

Of the soloists, perhaps soprano Tracy Dahl was most consistently pleasing. Her bright, canary-like tone sounded a little like French singer Mady Mespié coming off a hit of helium, but her earnest projection and brilliant ease with decoration was certainly more satisfactory than mezzo Patricia Spence's well-intentioned, but pained expression. Spence lacks a full supporting weight in the lower register, forcing her to rely on facial expressions to carry the sincerity of her performance.

Her solo work in "He was despised," was more effective because of this emotive cover, yet one kept remembering Judith Nelson's heartrending pathos with Christopher Hogwood some years back—the darkness of her tone and flawless diction giving full depth to Handel's invention.

The men were split, like the women; both acceptable, tenor Richard Margison more so. His voice has a heidentenorish ring, more suitable for a bigger, more operatic production, but his clarion "Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley" indicated what a fine evening it might have been had Bernardi opted for the sumptuous old-fashioned sound of previous generations.

Bass-baritone Jan Opalach suffered some of the same problems as Ms. Spence. His voice is pure and impressive in a higher register, but there is a distinct line of demarcation when he

drops to lower notes. He too, indulges in the "h" sound, when navigating his rather odd decorations (that's "h" as in ha, ha, ha).

Bernardi's cuts were not obvious and his pacing was sure, if destructively four-square in rhythmic pulse. Trumpet solos from the terraces on either side of the hall lent a pleasant theatricality to one passage, but after that there were few moments of grandeur. The "Hallelujah Chorus" lacked the customary energy that saves so many lackluster "Messiah" readings, though the audience rose for the duration in accordance with an obscure tradition.



Tracy Dahl.

Suave and Elegant Playing

The saving grace of the concert was the suave and elegant playing of the orchestra. Strings sounded sweet and full-bodied, whether playing in small groups or large. Robin Sutherland's harpsichord was charming, when audible and John Fenstermaker's contribution from the organ was wonderful.

Another performance of note was given by associate principal cellist, Peter Shelton. Special praise was won by the true intonation and brilliant sound of the trumpet soloists.

Getting the "Messiah" on and off the stage on a yearly basis obviously entails a frightening number of variables. That the Symphony can manage it with such cool and competent aplomb is commendable. There was no hint of cynicism in this year's efficient presentation, just a lack of insight.

A critic as stern as George Bernard Shaw deemed *Messiah* a masterpiece, worthy of comparison with the best of Shakespeare's dramaturgy. The last Symphony rendition for the eighties was a safe, occasionally drowsy affair that fulfilled its commitment, but little more.

If you want to sample the true greatness of Handel's work in two highly contrasted recorded versions, go for the unashamedly grand production by Andrew Davis and the Toronto Symphony with marvelous soloists, including Samuel Remy and Kathleen Battie. For a clearer handle on what the composer might have had in his own lifetime, try Trevor Pinnock's lithe and deeply moving discs with the English Concert. Ears will be opened and converts surely won to the "authentic" movement when Roger Norrington appears this summer in the "Beethoven Experience." Maybe next year we could coax him into tackling this towering, life-enhancing oratorio? ▼

Styles Change

by George Heymont

The style of entertainment that satisfied an audience 250 years ago is not the style of entertainment that will keep a modern audience happy.

Nevertheless, some people become so wrapped up in paying homage to the so-called "masterpieces" of the operatic repertoire that they forget a very important point: opera was created, above and beyond all else, as a form of entertainment.

Times change, styles change and, unless it is determined to die like a dinosaur, the operatic art form must change, too.

This fall, when two widely acclaimed masterpieces of the repertoire received new productions from West Coast opera companies, it was fascinating to monitor the audience's reaction to each production.

One, a baroque opera featuring a renowned superstar, had people fleeing the theater.

The other (a Mozart standard that, because of a sudden change of directors, received an unexpected boost of theatrical energy) had the audience rolling with laughter.

To be sure, each production had its strengths and weaknesses.

What was amazing was the difference in the audience's energy!

In one theater, supertitles helped the audience follow the action all the way through a complicated comic plot.

In the other, not even the titles could conquer the inanities of a baroque libretto or the lethargy inherent in the opera's score.

Going Down for the Count

All too often, *The Marriage of Figaro* receives such reverential treatment that people forget Mozart's opera was meant to be an extremely political yet entertaining piece of music theater.

Instead of focusing in on the social commentary to be found in Lorenzo Da Ponte's libretto, they worry about whether or not the soprano singing the role of the Countess is producing sufficient pear-shaped tones to match what they heard on Madame X's recording of "Dove sono" or "Porgi Amor."

Instead of focusing in on the dramatic vitality of the cast in front of them, they worry about whether anything can possibly hold a candle to past performances of record.

If a performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* requires immediate attention, that's because the life force of the opera is about what's happening onstage in a highly-charged dramatic situation. The Seattle Opera's recent production was blessed with a cast of extremely talented American artists who, above all else, are creatures of the stage.

Thus, even if Diane Kesling's Cherubino seemed too breathy—or if Sheri Greenawald's performance as the Countess evidenced some strained tones—the dramatic insights these performers brought to their characters were nothing less than staggering.

With Erich Parce's porcelain pretty Count Almaviva, Dale Duesing's highly-animated Figaro and Cynthia Haymon's seductive Susanna on hand, the Seattle Opera's ensemble of singers went about their work with great gusto.

Under Andrew Sinclair's fluid direction, especially strong

cameos came from comprimario artists Judith Christin and Darren Keith Woods (who got to sing the Act IV solo arias written for Marcellina and Don Basilio that are usually excised from Mozart's opera under current performance practices).

Thanks to Sonya Friedman's supertitles, the audience was solidly with the cast throughout the evening—enjoying this opera for its genuine dramatic strengths much more than audiences at most performances of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Aided by Peter Kaczorowski's sensitive lighting, Michael Olich's cost-conscious unit set served its purpose well. My one complaint, and it is a strong one, lies with conductor Gerard Schwarz's dangerously lagging tempos, which put an inexcusable burden on the artists and an unfortunate weight on the proceedings at hand.

Baroque'n Dreams

I've always felt that honesty is the best policy. That's why, when asked how I was enjoying a performance of *Orlando Furioso*



Sheri Greenawald and Eric Parce in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

(Photo: Matthew McVay)

during intermission, I confessed that I was bored shitless and would rather go for a pizza.

With all due respect to the demands of history and musicology, I found Vivaldi's opera to be an incredibly futile waste of time and money.

The biggest problem was the star around whose talents this new production was built. Ten years ago, Marilyn Horne was an

invincible mezzo-soprano who could fearlessly negotiate the hurdles of any Handel, Rossini or Vivaldi score knowing that she hadn't an equal in the world. Today, Horne's voice is a shadow of its former self.

The world-famous singer (who sits on the San Francisco Opera's Board of Directors) has to work much harder to produce her notes and, as evidenced in recent

productions of Handel's *Orlando*, Rossini's *Tancredi* and Vivaldi's *Orlando Furioso*, the results are far from pretty. In short, the old gray mezzo ain't what she used to be.

Although many San Franciscans cheered vociferously at curtain calls for the elegant new production (which was designed by Pier Luigi Pizzi and staged by Ugo Tessitore), I was not among them.

But since I believe in giving credit where credit is due, my hat goes off to conductor Randy Behr (who stepped onto the podium to replace the dying Sir John Pritchard), to countertenor Jeffrey Gail for his performance as Ruggiero and to the mimes who added a greatly needed dash of wit and grace to the production.

Soprano Susan Patteron delivered some outstanding vocalism as Angelica. As the sorceress Alcina, Kathleen Kuhlmann nearly walked off with the show (her talents could have been showcased to much better advantage in another opera). Sandra Walker's Bradamante, Kevin Langan's Astolfo and William Matteuzzi's Medoro all showed dangerous signs of developing bad operatic habits.

(Continued on page 45)

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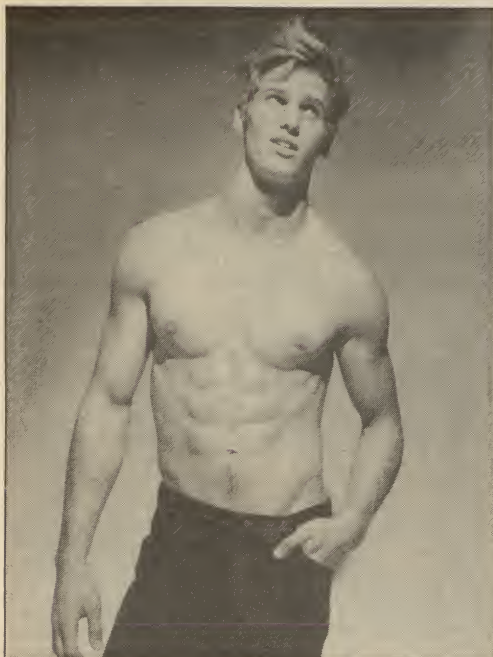
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Mike Hill, studio, NYC, 1986.

(Photo: Bruce Weber)

Weber

(Continued from page 25)

us. In the model's statuesque poses and their timeless beauty, in the photographer's uncluttered documentary style and the classic qualities of the black and white process, there seems to be a coolness, a confrontation.

But this is deceptive. These photos are neither as objective nor spare as they look. They are loaded with the photographer's concern for his subjects, and they are alive with the model's life. The details aren't visible, but stories swirl under the breathtaking surfaces. That's what hooks us more than the sex. If it was only sex these photos had to offer, the effect would wear off in a season. One of the most fascinating aspects of this collection is its holding power.

No small part of that holding power comes from the homosexual mythos which is Weber's stock in trade. So great is the resemblance of his photos to those seen in 1960s magazines such as *Physique*, *Demi-Gods* and *Young Adonis* that I

wondered about Weber's age. Could those have been his photos, credited to Western Model Guild and other *noms de camera* that I dreamed over? They weren't, but could have been—and I'm sure Weber's seen them. His work, more than of anyone else, has made in international language out of gay iconography.

It's that gay hook that gives the photos their power. Like other current photographers, Weber can skillfully combine the best of art and commercial photography styles. He's absorbed the modernist style established by Dorothea Lange with her Depression-era photos, and Walker Evans with his photos of the South, and added to it the elegance and self-conscious style of commercial photography (think Mapplethorpe).

Yet he's eschewed the easy glamor that prevents the work of others from rising much beyond beefcake (think of Skrebneski and all of Haas). What seems uniquely his is the ravenously observant eye of the homosexual which has been the traditional viewpoint of our art since von

Gloeden: Cool yet bewitched, and desirous yet distant, it apprises as it prizes.

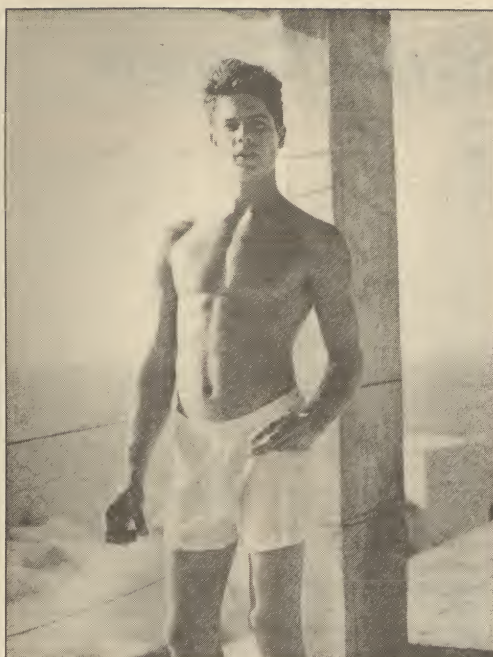
On 'Shore Leave'

Another book of photographs is the novelty item called *Shore Leave*, (Bruno Gmunden, \$29.95, an import available at A Different Light). There's art here, but the basic appeal is to your gonads. And it works. This sort of soft core fantasy has been done before, but never better or more beautifully. *Shore Leave* is the ultimate gay wish fulfillment fantasy I've seen.

The photos—handsome work by Andrew Kennedy which alternates glossy sheen or romantic mist as called for—tell a Tom of Finland wordless story of sailors on shore leave. They couldn't be more handsome or better built. One group of them goes to the beach to frolic in the nude, clip their hair, play volleyball and indulge in as much body contact as possible. It couldn't be more buddy-buddy as they hug in the surf, arms clasped around each other in loving camaraderie, their balls tight from the cold water.

Another group of guys (two beefy body builders) end up in the home of an unusually handsome musician. They get warm and play pool with their shirts off; get greasy working on the car and doff their pants to bathe. Then they laze in the nude, arm wrestling or hugging. Oh, they drive me crazy, these buddy bodybuilder brothers.

There's no sex in the book. The photographs are a feast of suggestion. It's the sort of book I didn't think was made anymore. But I'm glad someone had the skill to make this one, the last of its kind. Although it's actually silly and certainly expensive, *Shore*



Gregorio, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 1984.

(Photo: Bruce Weber)

Leave is one hot item.

The Ultimate Marilyn

Very little need be said about the photo collection called *Marilyn Monroe and the Camera* (Little Brown, \$60). It is, simply, the ultimate.

The book is an anthology of Monroe photography from the first picture in the early 1940's to the last session by Bert Stern in 1962, and it doesn't miss a thing in between, from calendar girl to goddess. There's over 200 pages of sumptuously reproduced photos in color and black and white. Getting the rights to this spread couldn't have been an easy task, as the book includes every famous Marilyn photo, along with candid and backstage shots, in the work of Avedon, Halsmann, Beaton and numerous others. *Marilyn Monroe and the Camera* encompasses in its amazing breadth the work included in a dozen other

books. If you want only one Monroe photo book, *this* is it. And if you have others, this is the capstone of your collection.

The book explores without words the never-ending question: Who was Marilyn? Since her death she's had as many identities laid on her by as many authors who have appropriated her life or image, from Germaine Greer to Norman Mailer. She's the only one who was unable to fix her own identity (although she gets a good shot at it in the revealing interviews with George Belmont included in this book).

All she knew for certain was that she could enchant us, and she knew every form she could assume to do that. Every one of those assumptions is seen in this book. What becomes clear from this book's panoramic view is how consistently sure and real her identity was from the beginning to the end. If only she could have been assured by that. ▼



From *Shore Leave*.

(Photo: Arthur Kennedy)



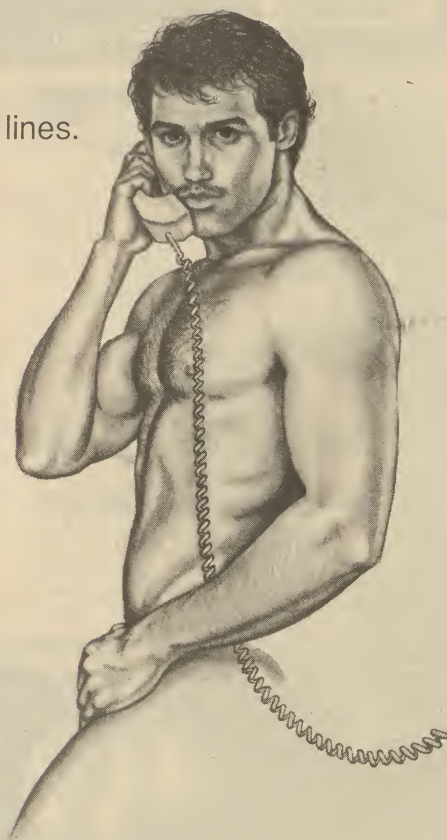
Photo for 1952 *Life* magazine layout by Alfred Eisenstaedt.

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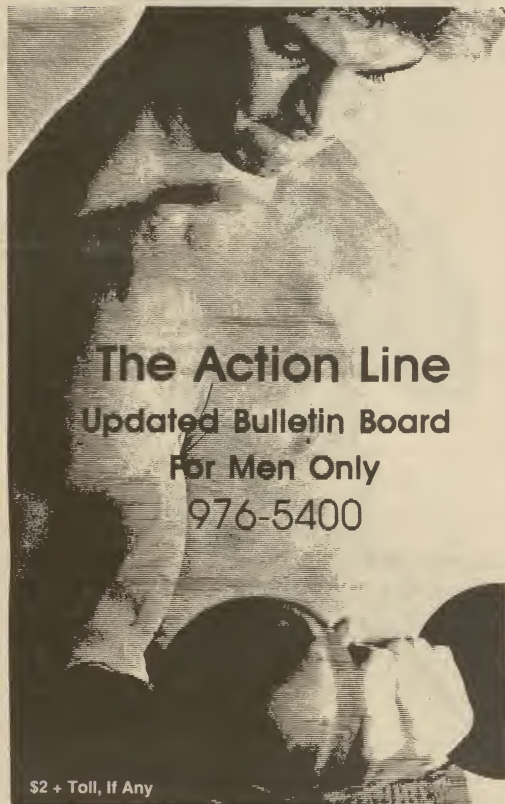
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Religious Groups Call for Cancellation of Gay Games

by Dennis Conkin

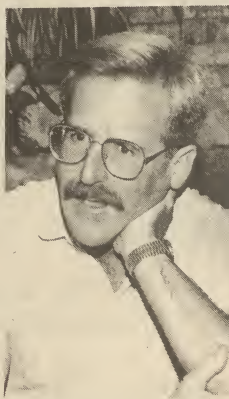
Vancouver gays and lesbians got a shock last month when they opened the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper and read a full page ad that called for the cancellation of the August 1990 Gay Games.

According to Celebration '90 executive officer Shawn Kelly, the ads cost an estimated \$15,000 and were placed by a suburban Vancouver fundamentalist religious group.

Appearing under a banner headline "Time Is Running Out," the group, which Kelly says has refused to talk to the press or identify itself, proclaimed that Gay Games would bring "God's judgement upon all," in Vancouver. The group then forbid the Games in "the name and authority of Jesus Christ."

"These people are obviously well funded enough to have \$15,000 to piss away on 2 full-page ads," Kelly told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Response from the gay community and mainstream religious and cultural groups, Kelly says,



Shawn Kelly.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

has been tremendous. Letters to the *Sun* and another paper ran overwhelmingly against the ad—and the *Sun* publicly apologized for running them.

"We regret that it went unflagged as advertising (its appearance was such that a reader

might have perceived it as editorial material) and we unequivocally deplore its lack of signatures or attribution. In addition, we consider the message repugnant," the *Sun*'s response declared.

A "Reminder" for Gays

Kelly says that the flap over the ads is a reminder to gays and lesbians of the threat to gay rights from fundamentalist religious groups.

"There are groups opposed to us for the long run. But we can use this as a way to mobilize support," said Kelly. He says that one way such support is demonstrated is by an increase in the number of people who are wanting to volunteer during the Games.

Although the incident has caused concern, Kelly says that there have not been any threats of violence, although he did point out that the lesbian and gay bookstore in Vancouver was bombed last year.

Thousands of athletes are expected to participate in Gay Games in Vancouver next year. ▼

Deadlines Approach as Teams Begin to Solidify Rosters

by Rick Thoman

As 1989 winds down, various sports teams and organizations are solidifying rosters, scheduling meetings and making plans for Vancouver. Below are updates on a few of these groups:

Team San Francisco

Team San Francisco has scheduled its next meeting for Saturday, Jan. 13, at 4 p.m., at the Eureka Valley Gymnasium. The meeting is open to all and will include the updating of information regarding Gay Games III.

Anyone desiring to participate in Gay Games III should remember the first registration deadline is Jan. 31. After that date, the \$36 registration fee increases to \$54 through the final registration date of May 31.

Gay Games III participants are also reminded that Now, Voyager Travel Agency is handling hotel accommodations and travel reservations for Vancouver. Hotel space is already at a premium, with many locations already completely booked. Hosted housing in Vancouver is very limited and all requests for this type of housing should be submitted to the Vancouver Gay Games organizers immediately.

Registration forms, including Housing Requests, are now available at Fleet Feet on Market near 16th St. and Noe. For more information, contact Team San Francisco representative Susan Kennedy, 824-4697, or Gary France, 558-9195.



(Photo: Rink)

Track & Field

The San Francisco Track & Field Club will begin meeting at McAteer High School at the corner of O'Shaughnessy and Portola in Twin Peaks beginning Jan. 7. The Sunday workouts begin at 10:30 a.m. and are open to all, regardless of experience, but in particular for those planning on participating at Gay Games III.

As spokesman Frank Demby explained, "We're in our off-season conditioning phase right now and it's an excellent time for new runners to come and join us. We'll be meeting throughout January at McAteer to concentrate on hill work before moving onto the track."

The SFT&F Club is putting together their 1990 meet schedule that will prepare them for the Gay Games III in Vancouver in August. For more information about participating in track & field at Gay Games III, call Rick at 626-8784.

Racquetball

Anyone interested in playing racquetball at Gay Games III should contact Team San Francisco co-chair for racquetball, Wref Fulton, at 626-7758. Players are currently participating in weekly matches at Schoeber's in South San Francisco on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome,

(Continued on page 40)

A Pair of Perfect Games

by Jerry R. De Young

On December 9 and 10, a very successful and exciting 93-participant/31-team, no-tap tournament was held at Park Bowl. The event raised \$500 for the SFNTIT/SFBEAR funds.

The highlight of the tournament was Vince Dicolla. After his eighth no-tap strike in a row, each time Vince stepped up to propel a ball, all eyes in the bowling establishment were utterly glued to his back. He continued to strike through the 9th, 10th and 11th balls.

On the final ball, in spite of intense pressure, Vince left absolutely no room for luck and unwaveringly placed the ball dead in the pocket. Even before the impact, the entire house, anticipating the obvious, joyous outcome, rose in unison and gave out a thunderous roar of approval for Vince's no-tap 300 game. There is no cash award for this magnificent achievement, but it was the most thrilling event of the entire tournament.

As a final hurrah to an exciting SFNTIT/BEAR weekend, here are the teams that took home the bacon:

First Place, Nordig Drag Machine (2328), \$150; Bob Bates, Don Gambell, Tim Mulvenon.

Second Place, Arms Akimbo II (2266), \$120; Vince Dicolla, Ed Hamm, Hugh Smith.

Third Place, Park Bowl (2253), \$90; Vince Dicolla, Chuck Webster, Michael Wheeler.

Fourth Place, Pilsner Penguins (2213), \$60; Pat Conlon, David Frank, Angelo Maggio.

Several admirable things happened at the awards ceremony/spaghetti buffet presented at the SF Eagle, Dec. 10. The Pilsner Penguins, a long-established, much respected team, turned back their prize money to the SFBEAR Fund. Also, Hugh Smith, one of the no-tap winners, stationed himself on the chow line at the SF Eagle and served up spaghetti sauce to his many famished bowling buddies. Hats off to these and the many other unsung sportspersons who repeatedly choose to give much more than they receive.

A bowler who is renowned for his generous way with strikes is

J.C. Halstead. On Dec. 3, J.C., on the **Sunday Before Brunch Bowling Bunch**, almost effortlessly executed a perfect 300 scratch game, then turned right around, without even pausing to acknowledge his phenomenal achievement and bowled an incredible 289 game on *league* bowling. J.C. really knows how to "work those pins!"

Now, let's focus on the Tavern Guild Bowling League and the extraordinary exploits accomplished by the exceptionally enterprising elements of this enormous enterprise.

Tavern Guild Bowling League's 200+ & 600+ CLUBS

Sunday SF Women's Business League, Dec. 10, Week 12: Lynn Wood (150), Bowldykes 232; Sara Lewinstein (166), Artemis 200, 212; Marti Taylor (145), Maude's Sqd 211; Mary Lassale (138), Maude's Sqd 201.

TG Monday Trios, Dec. 11, Week 10: Jeff Hettmansperger (206), TreChez Mol 208, 256, (648); Frank Rauch (164), Cave Men 204, 228, (627); Don Gambell (193), PWIL 226; J.C. Halstead (184), AllAmer 209, 223, 215 (647); Lew Cordaro (164), ParkBowl 213; Angelo Maggio (176), PIPinPals 212; Jeff Lambert (164), CapriCoff 212; Pat Conlon (170), PIPinPals 210; Nathan Hauser (197), HitchHkrs 202, 203; Don George (182), Pus&Boots 200.

TG Monday BL, Dec. 11, Week 14: Bryan Johnson (164), JulSup-

Clb 265, (607); Jim Hahn (179), ParkBowl 221, 243, (634); Doug Litwin (183), Strs&Strps 226, 200, (617); Michael Bulawit (173), Rolo'sToo 221, 213, (622); Don Gambell (190), AllAmTrph 221, 203 (620); Angelo Maggio (166), PIPengns 213, 211 (615); Steve Rocha (173), Strs&Stps 207; Steve Szasz (189), AllAmTrph 202.

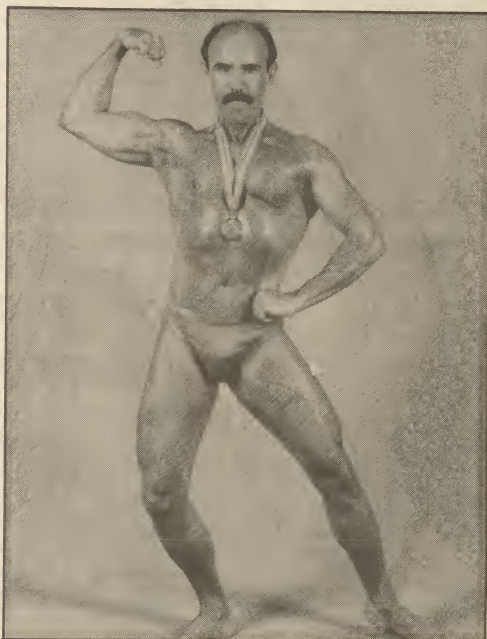
TGWednesday BL, Dec. 13, Week 12: Don Gambell (191), LftOvers 245, 223, (665); David Frank (167), Pilsner I 235; Robert Mack (182), ParkBowl 233, 231, (638); Timothy Benton (186), PIPNoBys 225; Kevin Schwabe (213), PIPNoBys 223, 214, (611); Tom Sipple (184), PWIL 212; Kevin Ahart (176), PWIL 212; George Carrioo (180), PIPNoBys 210; Norm Schiffman (156), Gutr Grls 210; Preson Lasley (155), Bow-K 205, 209; Vince Dicolla (185), 976-Pilr 208; Greg Bickel (180), Bow-K 200, 202; Tom Byers (177), 976-Pilr 201; Hugh Smith (178), 976-Pilr 200; John Parry (168), LftOvers 200.

ICBO/GC, Dec. 7, Week 12: Don Gambell (184), CUinBC 224, 211, (624); Michael Wheeler (171), BoWhArAkmo 227, 202, 219, (648); Michael Gold (173), Capri Coff 214; Sally Canjura (159), MixedFruit 214; Don Latt (172), Team13 212; Richard Elwart (152), BowlThis! 212; Doug Litwin (173), CUinBC 204, 211; Robyn Trost (171), BoWhArAkmo 209, 200; Ron Raimondi (154), "1990" 202; Mike Vaticano (144), Canuts 202.



"The bowler and the stranger."
(Photo: Jerry R. De Young)

TGThursdayBL, Dec. 7, Week 13: Don Gambell (190), PWIL 225, 237, 233, (695); Ron Squires (165), SFEagle 232; Jay Kubovec (158), TrxOfRYrs 219; Bob Bates (169), PWIL 216, (610); J.C. Halstead (195), ParkBowl 215; Randy Poupard (159), 29's Only 213; John Glynn (162), StrLgtRm 212; Don Fritsche (170), Willows 209, 204; Don George (182), Choyc Meat 208; Rob Levi (166), Park Bowl 204; Tim Mulvenon (193), PWIL 200, 203; Lew Cordaro (161), SFEagle 203. ▼



Bodybuilder Sergio Angel.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Bodybuilding Scholarship Deadline Nears

Since its inception in 1987, the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society (ABS) has been working to establish a scholarship fund to send athletes to Gay Games III. The ABS board of directors has announced that \$9,000 has been raised and is available to gay and lesbian bodybuilders of the San Francisco Bay Area. The scholarships have been designated to assist bodybuilders in registration/entry fees and housing costs. The deadline to apply for the funds is Dec. 31.

The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society was founded in 1987 by George Birimisa and is dedicated to the ideals and memory of Dr. Tom Waddell.

"The idea for such an organization began in 1986, when Dr. Waddell spoke at G-40 (Gay Men

Over 40)," Birimisa says. "He gave an impassioned speech in which he urged older gay men to participate in Gay Games II." The 62-year-old Birimisa adds, "Participating in Gay Games II was a chance to shatter the homosexual stereotypes, and became an opportunity to dignify and motivate gay athletes."

ABS encourages older athletes to enter either Physique '90 (scheduled for June 23 at the Herbst Theatre) and/or Gay Games III.

"The physique contests have had bodybuilders from 22 to 67 years young. Gay Games III is open to all, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation or level of experience," Birimisa reminds.

For more information, phone 431-6254. ▼

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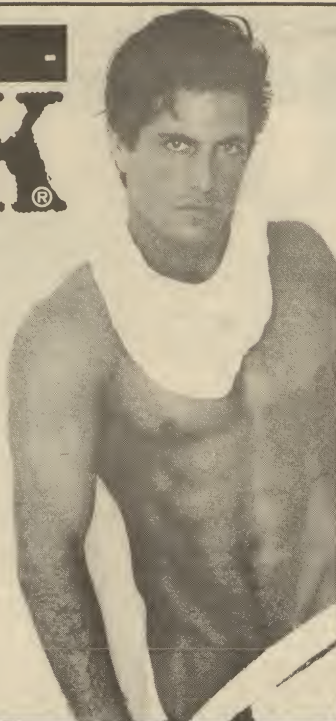
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Duncan Shines Over Pool League's Elite

Last Saturday's All-Star Tournament was the San Francisco Pool Association's individuals' finale of both the season and the decade. The 16 competitors were the elite among the league's 137 rated players and all were intent on winning a seat on the plane to West Coast Challenge XX in January.

One diminutive young woman would bare her ten-foot tall spirit in besting them all for her second All-Star crown.

Lisa Duncan was one of four San Marcos Cafe Quackers in the field and was rated no. 5 over-all, based on last season's play. She also had the misfortune to be drawn as the first round opponent of her teammate and the no. 1 seed, E.Z. Her win was one of several first-round upsets.

Duncan's second round opponent was Tom Williamson, himself an upset victor over last season's defending champion, Bernard Bayaca, in a match which featured back-to-back Williamson table runs. Duncan would fare no better as Williamson couldn't miss in a 3-0 sweep of their match, sending her to the dreaded losers' bracket.

Duncan next pounded out convincing wins over Rick Bradford, and Ching Ng, thereby reaching the trophy round of the top four.

Her next opponent would be another teammate and veteran of countless tournaments, Luby Pelletier. His victories were over Bradford, Glenn Judd and Jim Russo and his loss was to Rick Mariani. His match with Duncan see-sawed to a 2-2 deadlock before Duncan seized the match game, leaving Luby in fourth with a 12-10 record.

Lisa had now advanced to the losers' bracket final with Mariani of the Overpassers as her opponent. Lisa would earn her rematch with Williamson with a 3-1 victory, leaving Rick in third place, also with a 12-10 record. Rick had won consecutive matches against John Schou, Lauren Ward and Pelletier before his losses to Williamson and Duncan.

Tom had been amazing people all day as he produced one upset after another and was within a game of the title after jumping

out to a 2-0 lead against Duncan. Lisa's championship spirit refused to concede and she battled out a win, then another, then a third to claim the match and force a tie-breaker. Lisa's date with destiny seemed unimpeded as she extended her streak to six in a row, winning the championship match, 3-0 and claiming her second All-Star Crown.

Tom scored 14-10 as a runner-up and earned a lot of respect for his shot-making skills. "I'm already looking forward to playing in my first West Coast Challenge," he said.

Duncan scored an incredible 24-11 against some of the toughest competition the league has to offer. She was not shy about how it felt.

"It feels sooooo sweet!" she exclaimed.

The event was hosted by the Cinch Bar and The White Swallow Bar and was presided over by league president Torri Connelly.

Team Championship Update

Just two teams remain of the thirty that began the season last summer and they faced off last week in the first of a best-of-three match series.

The Cafe San Marcos was the scene as the Quackers hosted the Overpassers before a crowd of spectators. The home team's co-captains, E.Z. and Lauren Ward, combined for seven wins and two table runs, needing only one win apiece from Duncan and Pelletier to gain the series advantage with a 9-6 win.

Jim Russo provided the bulk of the Overpassers' offense, going 3-1, including a table run vs. Ward.

Should the Overpassers win the second meeting, the tie-breaker will take place Dec. 21 at the Cafe San Marcos.

The City Champion Team will join the four top All-Stars and two winners from the Women's Qualifier as players in January's WCC XX in Long Beach. Lisa's win has opened the door for Claire Boddy to claim a spot in the women's field of players. Dial JOE-POOL for SF Pool Association information. ▼

Deadline

(Continued from page 38)

any skill level, male or female.

According to Fulton, "This gives racquetball players the opportunity to play with other gays in informal pick-up games at an athletic club without having to pay for club membership." Those interested should call Fulton for exact dates/times of the practice sessions.

Fulton is currently trying to organize a spring tournament for players who will be participating in the Vancouver Gay Games. "I'd like to be able to form a league with teams, similar to the San Francisco Gay Tennis Federation," commented Fulton, "but that may have to wait until after Gay Games III."

Wrestling

The Golden Gate Wrestling Club is on hiatus for the month of December but will resume workouts beginning Jan. 9 on Tuesday and Friday nights at the

Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Collingwood at 18th St.

According to team coach Gene Dermody, the club hopes to institute a Sunday afternoon practice session by March, allowing those people unable to participate on weeknights to attend the team workouts.

Dermody is also working out a tournament schedule to allow wrestlers to get some competitive experience prior to the Gay Games in August. As he explained, "After the collegiate season ends, there's probably an open or masters tournament every weekend for our guys to take part in. We're trying to schedule some matches now so we can get in some competition and determine what we need to work on prior to the Games."

All levels of ability are welcomed to participate. For more information, call Gene Dermody at 821-2991. ▼



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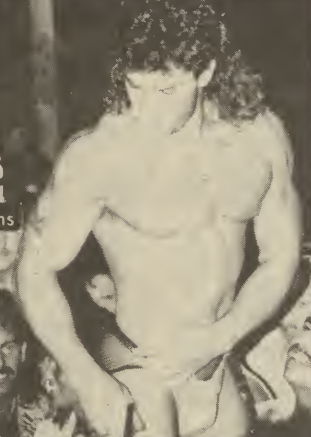
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THIS

FRIDAY 22

• Renaissance Christmas: Featuring the Festival Consort and the Consort of Voices singing the music of Gabrieli, Dufay and Praetorius. 8 p.m. \$5-8. Old First Church, Van Ness & Sacramento. STBS Union Square or call 474-1608.

• Christmas Party at the Mint: Christmas ornament judging, sing-a-long carols. 1942 Market/Duboce. 626-4726.

• El Rio: Enjoy oysters on the half shell, happy hour 5-8 p.m. DJs Carlos Grant & Peggy Key. FREE. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 3158 Mission. 262-3325.

• TownsEnd: BASSment dj dancing with Ernie Munson. 10 p.m. 214-177 Townsend, SF. Call 974-1156.

• 1-Beam: Features Limbomaniacs, Smoking Section. 10:30 p.m. \$5 adv. 1748 Haight, SF. Call 668-6023.

• Firehouse 7: The hottest dance music in town. DJ dancing with Carol Bever. 9 p.m. FREE. 3160 16th St. SF. 621-1617.

• The Snow Queen: Winsong Tong's historical adaptation of the fairy tale told with bunraku puppets. Dec. 21-22, 8 p.m.; Dec. 23, 5-8 p.m.; Dec. 24, 5 p.m. \$7-11. Climate Theatre, 202 9th/Folsom. 626-9196.

• Nutcracker: By the Berkeley Concert Ballet at Zellerbach Hall, U.C. Berkeley campus. Dec. 22, 2 & 8 p.m.; Dec. 23, 2 p.m. \$10-15. Call 642-9988 or BASS Ticket master.

• Gay Men's Group Oil Massage: Touched and get touched. 7:30-10 p.m. \$10. 552 Castro St. Call Bruce. 626-2026.

• Social Gathering: for the supporters of Kairos House. 114 Douglass, 5-7 p.m. Information: 861-0877.

• Living Well With AIDS/ARC: Support group based on Attitudinal Healing Principles. 1-3 p.m. & 7-9 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church. Call 621-REST.

SATURDAY 23

• The Twelve Nights of Christmas: Hosted by Scott Johnson & Danny Williams. Featuring Irene Soderberg & Friends. Special appearance by Mrs. Claus. 7:30 p.m. No cover. Donations support Virnie Russell's Xmas Eve Dinner for PWA's. The Galleon Bar & Restaurant, 718 14th St./Church & Market. 431-0253.

• 1-Beam: High Energy & House Music Saturdays. \$5 free w/pass. 9 p.m. 2 a.m. Tea Dance Sundays. \$5 free 5-9 p.m. w/pass. 1748 Haight, SF. 668-6023.

• Deaf Lesbians - New Organization Forming!: Open to all who speak or are seriously motivated to learn our language (ASL). 444-0458 TDD or 1-800-342-6833.

• Women's Clinic: Call at 8:30 a.m. for same day appointment. Pap smears, STD, bladder and pregnancy testing. Health care by and for women. Berkeley Free Clinic, 548-2570.

• Art Class: Exploring AIDS/ARC issues through creativity. FREE. Noon-4 p.m. Game Night, social mixer for PWA/PWARC/PWHIVs, 7-11 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church. 621-REST.

• Reiki Treatments: A clothes-on physical work which touches the body and nurtures the being. For persons with AIDS/ARC/HIV+. FREE. For appointment call 621-REST.

SUNDAY 24

• Traditional Christmas Eve Concert: Featuring the Christmas Winds under the direction of Carol Negro performing seasonal Medieval and Renaissance works. 4 & 8 p.m. \$5-8. Old First Church, Van Ness & Sacramento. 474-1608.

• Candlelight Communion Services on Christmas Eve: 7 & 11 a.m. at MCC Church, 150 Eureka. Organ preludes at 10:30 p.m. Come greet Christmas with music, candlelight, and a community of loving celebration of gay and lesbian identity. Sunday morning worship at 9 & 11 a.m. Call 863-4434.

• Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: 9:30 a.m. see the Play of Herod and at 11:30 p.m. worship at the Candlelight Service. Dec. 25 worship at 9:30 a.m. St. Paulus Lutheran Church, Eddy & Gough, SF. Call 673-8088.

• Dignity Christmas Eve Mass: Gay & lesbian Catholics & friends celebrate Christmas Eucharist at 10 p.m., Dolores Street Baptist Church, 15th St. & Dolores. No 5:30 p.m. service. Call 255-9244 for information.

• Christmas Midnight Mass: Catholic mass for gay & lesbian Catholics and friends sponsored by the Diocese of San Jose. 11:45 p.m. Campus Christian Center, 10th & East San Carlos Sts., San Jose. (408) 977-4218.

• Celebrate Christmas Eve: With Frank Banks at the piano. 9 p.m. 1 a.m. The Mint, 1942 Market/Duboce. 626-4726.

• T. Dancing at Club St. John: Santa Claus presents Raphael, 1987 Playgirl Man of the Year. 8 p.m. \$3. 170 W. St. John St., San Jose. (408) 947-1667.

• Afternoon Tea: Come play games & socialize. For PWA/PWARC/PWHIVs. 2-7 p.m. FREE. Rest Stop, 134 Church. 621-REST.

• Integrity: Eucharist for the gathering community. 5:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 1661 15th St./Valencia. Call 653-5270.

• Marin MCC: MCC of the Redwoods has services at 6 p.m., 8 Olive St., Mill Valley. Call 389-2315.

• SF MCC: services, 150 Eureka St., S.F. 9 and 11 a.m. (with childcare and signing for the hearing-impaired) and 7 p.m. Call 863-4434.

• Golden Gate MCC: 11:30 a.m. at 48 Belcher (btwn 14th & Dolores). SF. Call 621-6300.

• New Life MCC: Worship service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley. 5 p.m. Call 843-9355.

• MCC Santa Rosa: Worship service, 515 Orchard St. 11 a.m. Call (707) 526-HOPE.

MONDAY 25

• Christmas Day Worship & Holiday Dinner: Worship begins at 11 a.m., followed by a potluck feast. MCC Church, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

• SF Jacks Celebrate April Fools Day: A progressive holiday event for men who like to j/f with other men. Doors 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$6. BYOB. 880 Hotline for location: 543-3433.

• Springboard Diving Class & Training: beginner thru advanced. Info/reg.: Bob Murphy, 552-0420, or Leslie King, 666-6820, Mon & Wed, 7 p.m.-Tues & Thu, 3:30 p.m.



• Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra: Pre-holiday dance with classic R & B revue sounds. Dec. 22 & 23, 9 p.m.

\$10. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 885-0750.

WEEK



• **Bring Back The Light:** The K'thar Sissies' erotic solstice celebration and blessing of renewal. Friday, Dec.

• **Co-Dependent No More Support Group:** facilitated by Bob Pettyman. 7-8:30 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass St.

• **HIV+ Spiritual Support Group:** weekly, SF MCC, 150 Eureka. Call: 863-4434.

• **Spiritual Support Groups for HIV+ Individuals:** Sponsored by the United Methodist AIDS Project, Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez, S.F. 7-9 p.m. Call 547-6051 or 752-3222.

• **Support Groups for PWA and Those Concerned About AIDS:** Ongoing meeting, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 2425 Geary Blvd., 3:30-4:45 p.m. The meetings will be held in Conference Room B on the fifth floor. Call 929-4186 for details.

22. Pagan attire encouraged. 890 Folsom St. Entry 9-10 p.m. \$7. For more information call 543-3433.

• **Cruzin' The Castro:** Walking tour of our community from an historical perspective. Trevor Hailey's wealth of local history explains how & why SF became the Gay Mecca of the world. Offered daily 10 a.m. Call 550-8110.

• **Care Partners Support Group:** For those caring for people with AIDS & other life threatening illnesses. 7:30-9 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

• **Trans-gender Support Group:** Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. with Counseling Supervisor, Christine Taylor. Open to all people dealing with trans-gender issues. Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate Ave., SF 554-0518.

• **East Bay Figure Drawing Class:** Wednesday evenings, 7-10 p.m. Located in the Jack London Square produce market just four blocks from Lake Merritt BART station. Reservations/info call 465-7382.

TUESDAY 26

• **Brett Reichman Paintings:** Wild surrealistic paintings! Thru Jan. 12. Fobbo Gallery & Think Tank, 149 Gough. 255-9313.

• **Winter Exhibition:** Figurative sculpture by Junki Yamamoto and surreal etchings by Mary Skoclich. SFSU Student Union Art Gallery. Thru Jan 18. 338-2580.

• **Bi Night Out:** Castro restaurant. 7 p.m. Meet other bi's and their friends for dinner and conversation. Call Pierre, 753-0687.

• **Lesbian Psychotherapy Group:** ongoing. Tue. evenings, 5:30-7 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market, SF 94103. Call 626-7000 for info & intake appointment.

• **Ministry of Light:** Gay men's support group, 8-9:30 p.m., 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Rm. 18, San Anselmo. Call: 457-0854 or 457-1115.

• **Slightly Older Lesbians:** Small group discussion, Billy O'Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7-9 p.m.

• **Asian Gay Men's Support Group:** The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 6:30-8 p.m. Call: 648-8283.

• **Gay Male Drop-In Group for Alcohol/ Substance Abuse and HIV Concerns:** individual and group process available. 7-9 p.m. at Operation Concern/Recovery, 1853 Market. For intake appointment call 626-7000.

WEDNESDAY 27

• **Red Hot Chili Peppers:** Plus special guest, \$19 adv., \$20 at door. 8 p.m. The Warfield, 982 Market, 775-7722.

• **Female Trouble:** A blue Christmas' Elvis drag show 9 p.m., 2 a.m. \$2 & 50 cent draft before 10 p.m. 1821 Haight.

• **Hyena, a new dance club:** At 6th & Harrison with live entertainment every week; 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$2.

• **AIDS & HIV Drop-In Group for Asians & Pacific Islanders:** Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Asian AIDS Project, 300 4th St./Folsom, Suite 401. Call 227-0816.

• **Silkscreen Workshop:** Hand print your Xmas cards, or gifts. FREE. Open to PWA/PWARC/PHIVs. 2:30-5 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church. Call 621-REST.

• **Art Class:** Exploring AIDS/ARC issues through creativity. FREE. 7-9 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church. 621-REST.

• **Finding Love All Minds Enlightened (FLAME):** Healing meditation 6:30 p.m., fellowship 7:30 p.m. 1853 15th St./Ramona (btwn Dolores & Guerrero). 566-4122.

THURSDAY 28

• **I Think It's Going To Work Out Fine:** A rock 'n' roll table in shades of Ike & Tina Turner. Featuring Rhodessa Jones & Idris Ackamoor. Dec. 28 30, 8 p.m. \$10. Lorraine Hamberry Theatre, 920 Sutter/Mason. BASS, STBS or 474-8800.

• **American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco Hilton:** Gay section. Dec. 28, 4:30-6 p.m. "Gay Americans in War: Methods & Sources" with Charles Shively and Allan Berube. Dec. 29, 6:30 a.m. Panel on Greco-Roman pedophilia, with Lou's Companion, William Pursey and Bert Verstaete. 841-9415.

• **Older Gay Men's Friendship Group:** 2:45-4 p.m. Friendship Room, 711 Eddy St., SF. FREE. Lively discussions, outings, etc. Call GLOE at 626-7000.

• **ETVC, TV/TS & Friends Social & Support Club:** Presents "Winter Carnival" with a Snow Queen contest. Holiday dress please! SF location. 8 p.m. 849-4112 or write: ETVC, Box 6486, SF 94101.

• **Wet Jockey Shorts Contest at The Endup:** With Danny Williams & guests. \$25-400 in prizes. 10 p.m. \$3. 6th & Harrison, SF.

• **New Beach Paintings By Robert Morgan:** On exhibit at Sweet Inspiration cafe, 2239 Market/Sanchez. Thru Jan. 15. Robert, 885-0851, for info.

• **HIS House, AIDS Care Cntr:** Group home for HIV+ persons. Group therapy, individual & relationship counseling, social service assistance. Call 775-433-6116, Santa Rosa.

• **PWA Pals:** For those looking for a meaningful relationship within the AIDS Crisis. PWA couples also welcome. M-F 10 a.m. & Thu. weekly. Guest speakers, potlucks, special events planned. Call 861-7765 for Thursday info, 469-4886 for Sunday.

• **HIV Support Group for Gay Asian/Pacific Men & Their Partners:** Meets every Thu., 5:30-7 p.m. A pre-group screening is requested. Contact facilitators: Kiki Ching, LCSW/Team II 518-2551, 2507; Joff Yoshimura, PhD. Psychologist, 474-7310.

• **Attitudinal Healing Principles Support Group:** For persons living with AIDS/ARC. 1-3 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church, SF. 621-REST.

• **Calligraphy Class:** Beginners & experts welcome. For persons living with AIDS/ARC/HIV concerns. FREE. 2-4 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church/SF. 621-REST.

• **Positive Opportunities for Wellness:** Support group for men with HIV+, ARC, or AIDS. 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Facilitated by Julian Baird. Refreshments. Call 285-3561.

• **Community United Against Violence:** Support Groups for Domestic Violence Battered Gay Males. Evenings, Free. 514 Castro. Call 864-3112 for info.



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That Certain Glow on Castro

by Mary Richards

Wreathed and ornamented for the holidays, Castro specialty stores offer a charmed alternative to the frantic rudeness of downtown shopping. The village of Castro is filled with warmth and cheer, which somehow seems brighter this year than usual.

People are feeling better about themselves, more optimistic about the decade to come. In this last month of 1989, there is a certain glow in our streets and in the smiles of those we pass.

Boyd Swartz is the co-owner of the Castro Village Wine Co. at 19th & Castro. The first thing to catch your eye about his shop is the display of hand-carved Bavarian wine corks in the window. They're not for sale, but each character on display seems to send a message of greeting to the passerby.

"We are proud of the fact," Boyd says, "that we have the largest selection of champagne in this city. Champagne is always right for the holidays, it's always fun, it bubbles, it means a good time."

Java Road, next door to the wine shop, is the place for coffee lovers. Paul Patacchiola, owner and manager, talks about one of his best-selling items for the season, a stainless steel thermos. For about \$29.00, one can give this state of the art gift: it can't

break, won't spill your coffee and stays hot for 17 hours.

Paul points out his assortment of quarter-pound bags of "world class selection" of coffees accented with bright pieces of candy. At \$21.50, it's definitely for someone who wants to broaden their coffee experience," he says.

Around the corner at 582 and 584 Castro, two Victorians stand side by side. Brightly decorated Christmas trees in all four major display windows, and the staircases are wrapped in green boughs with large red bows. These two grand ladies are a delight to behold.

A walk up the staircase, good exercise on any day, brings you to Oberon Sounds. Their advice is to "give a gift of music." If you purchase the KKSF Sampler (\$15.98 for the CD, \$10.98 for the tape), \$3.00 from each sale goes directly to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Across the street at Grand Central Station Antiques, copies of old-fashioned ornaments are selling for \$3 to \$7, and patchwork quilt stocking stuffers run from \$9 to \$12.

Another selection of antiques can be seen at Brand X. Here, old world jewelry mixes with silver candabras and vintage items from the past. Marcasites and other ornamental creatures are on sale for \$35 o \$65.

The best smelling store in town has to be Skin Zone, at 531 Castro, in the building which houses the Patio Cafe. Accessories for the body beautiful are offered encased in artfully decorated boxes. The scent of massage oils, soaps, shampoos and talcs mingle together to make this tiny shop a fun experience.

Stocking stuffers abound at the Castro Kiosk, where avant garde reading is available in magazines such as *Interview*, *Bomb*, *Blitz* and *Exposure*.

Does Your Mother Know? at 4079 18th St. has a varied selection of magnets for the refrigerator door at \$4.75 as well as the newest in chilli pepper lights for the tree. Stress Squeezer key chains are an unusual item and for \$5.95, one can give the gift of relaxation to anyone who "kneads" this amorphous shaped object.

Nearly next door, Jaguar offers items for the adult in a sophisticated and decorative atmosphere reminiscent of those intriguing adult shops which abound in Amsterdam and Denmark. Here one does not lurk—one browses in a civilized manner.

For the adventurous, there is The Ultimate 10-inch Classic Vibrator termed appropriately enough "The Satisfier," selling for \$14.95. The Pleaser, the In-



Bavarian bottle stoppers at Castro Village Wine Co.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

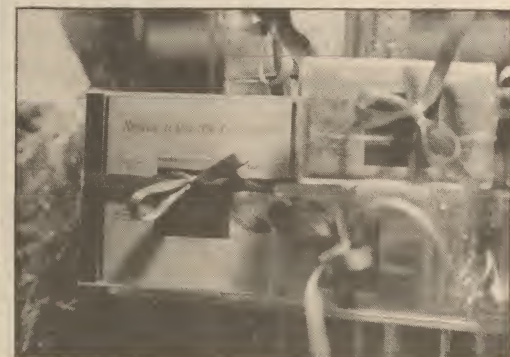
truder and the Arouser stand side by side, vying for attention. There's more to come with the Electro Squirm, G-Spot Prober and one understated item called simply, The Dong. They're all to be had from between \$10.95 and \$17.95.

Four Kandie Kondoms in the Sensuous Sheath package are available in popular flavors such as Pink Champagne, Passion Fruit and Pina Colada with Rum. A delectable treat at just \$8.95.

Books are always a perfect gift, and around the corner at 489 Castro, A Different Light Bookstore offers a large range of literature for the enlightened lesbian and gay. *Sure of You*, the newest Armistead Maupin book is selling for \$18.95. *Odyssey*

'90, which lists U.S. and International accommodations for gay community travelers is selling well at \$16.95. A gift of Quentin Crisp can never go astray and for \$18.95, his *Book of Quotations* (on life and love by, for and about gay men and women) would be an welcome addition to anyone's library.

Shopping in Castro offers a multitude of creative gift possibilities aside from the ones highlighted here, so take some time to browse in all its nooks and crannies. For refreshment during those hard shopping hours, don't forget to stop in for a libation at some of the best decorated restaurants and bars in town to say hello, and give a word of cheer during this festive holiday season.



Classics on sale at Oberon Sounds.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

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Deadline Approaches for Recovery Grants

Jan. 5 is the deadline for Bay Area non-profit arts and cultural organizations and individual performing and visual artists to apply for earthquake relief grants from the newly established Arts Recovery Fund, Christine Elbel, the Fund's coordinator has announced.

Arts Recovery Fund grants will be made to artists and arts organizations to offset net losses suffered as a result of the Oct. 17 Bay Area earthquake. The primary consideration in awarding grants will be the overall impact of the loss on the applying organization or individual.

Applicants must document losses within four eligible categories: (1) buildings, equipment or supply inventory losses; (2) relocation costs; (3) documentable losses where out-of-pocket expenses were incurred; and (4) other documentable losses which significantly affect the applicant's ability to carry on their normal programming.

For applications and information, call the Arts Recovery Fund at 342-0813, or write Arts Recovery Fund in care of Northern California Grantmakers, 116 New Montgomery St., Suite 742, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Cheery Church Street

by Mary Richards

Although the intersection of five corners at Market and Church streets is removed from the main part of Castro, this small area of gay shops and bars comes out with a cheerful greeting for the Christmas season in its own special way.

Frameworks at 268 Church St. is the most cosmopolitan in its presentation for the holiday, with a display of movie posters of American films released in Italy. *Chi Ha Paura Di Virginia Woolf?* is the title below the picture of the contorted face of Richard Burton with a sensual Liz Taylor in the background.

The framed poster sells for \$149 and Scott Alpert, owner of Frameworks, describes the frame color as "hunter green/teal. It's all done archively, with an acid-free matte and finished to museum standards of framing."

At Chocolate From Chocolates owner Jack Garcia makes many of the items himself: Santa and Snowman, Toy Soldiers, Bells, Christmas Trees, Porsches and BMWs all of molded dark chocolate, selling from \$3.50 to \$7.

One of the most popular pieces is a chocolate Christmas tree decorated with varied colored lights "painted" on it. Candy "cards" are available, but Jack says, "A lot of people come

in for the Advent Calendars, where you open up the door and eat the chocolate each day before Christmas. Of course by now, you'd have to eat 15 of them!"

A long string of lighted garlands in the shape of a huge Christmas tree adorn the Pilsner. On Christmas day from 1 to 7 p.m., Santa's elves will host a free dinner for the bar's regulars and others who may have nowhere else to go and need some holiday cheer.

"It's something that either one of my partners or I have done every year, at Christmas or Thanksgiving," co-owner Pat Conlon explains. "One of us usually bakes a turkey, one of us bakes a ham and we bring it down here. Some of the bartenders will bring a pie, and whoever comes in just helps themselves."

The Transfer across Market Street will be the place to go for New Year's Eve, when Stephanie Miller and the Handmaidens will star in a drag puppet show at 10 and 11 p.m.

Mistletoe can be purchased at Mehra Flowers at 212 Church St., and Soho, across from their



Pretty little boots all in a row at Image Leather.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

shop, is advertising framed prints on clearance at \$49.

Fluffy white kittens, a possum in full formal dress and a bear in a jester's costume perch atop the bar at the Galleon, which is lavishly adorned with Christmas trees covered in twinkling white lights. Santa Claus will visit the bar Dec. 22 and 23.

The Women's Training Center at 2164 Market offers a gift certificate for the holidays for memberships of one, three, six or twelve month periods. Gift certificates for an hour of massage can be purchased as well.

Don't forget Stagecoach for Men and Image Leather, two

shops on Market Street which offer distinctive items for the holiday. A walk in the sunshine down Market Street between the five corners of Church and Castro offers shops with a full range of interesting Christmas items, and an opportunity to share in the holiday hospitality which is found all over our part of town. ▼

Income Tax Classes

A free six week course, "Basic Income Tax Information," will be offered through the Castro/Valencia site of the San Francisco Community College Centers. The class begins on Jan. 18 and will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. Included in the class will be discussion of small business taxes, allowable personal deductions, rental property expenses, and new tax laws. The instructor is Jan Zobel, E.A., a tax practitioner in private practice who has been teaching this class for a number of years. The income tax class is open to all who are interested. Registration will take place at the first class session.

The Castro/Valencia site is located at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street. For more information, phone 550-3111 or 558-9987. ▼

Opera

(Continued from page 36)

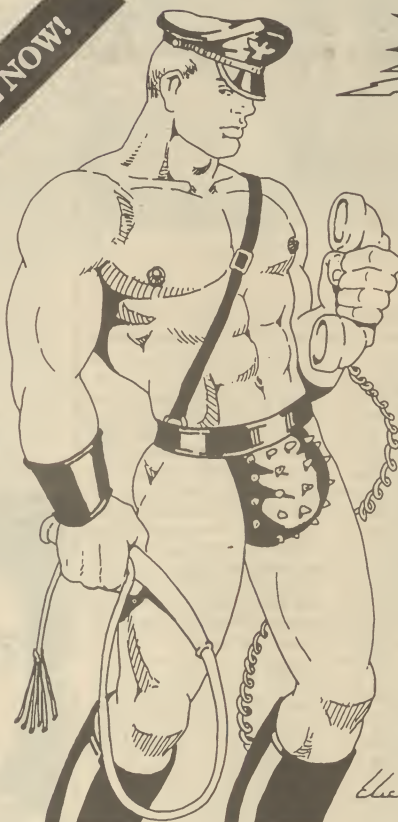
For archival purposes, I'm happy to report that Home Vision is videotaping the San Francisco Opera's production of *Orlando Furioso* for future release. What's more, I'm convinced that extensive editing through a camera's lens will transform the video version of Vivaldi's opera into a much livelier product than the stage performance.

However, given a choice of videos, I'd opt for a private showing of *Earth Girls Are Easy*. Wanna know why? Because as far as *Orlando Furioso* is concerned: Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn! ▼

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Christianity

(Continued from page 30)

Even Canon Law 1013, which addresses the purpose of sex in marriage states that it is to procreate children and to create a nurturing atmosphere of love. Conservative theologians tend to focus only on the first purpose, ignoring the second. Thus, despite what is popularly conceived of as "the official Church position," I think there is still room for change and that one can remain a practicing homosexual Catholic regardless of what certain homophobic Church officials say or do.

Christianity and Our Future

In *The Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoyevsky writes of a Grand Inquisitor who says if Jesus came back to earth, he would have to burn Him at the stake because people cannot tolerate his teachings on freedom. Christians who fear and persecute us today are not much different from this Grand Inquisitor or from the so-called Christian military in El Salvador who recently murdered six Jesuits. Christ himself preached peace, love and freedom. He

did not preach fear, hatred and censorship.

The history of Christianity is replete with examples of figures such as St. John of the Cross and St. Francis, who were persecuted by institutional Church officials only later to be canonized and become more influential than their persecutors. The ecumenism of Nicholas de Cusa was forgotten for 1,000 years, only to resurface in the open-heartedness of Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council.

Recent Christian theologians such as Teilhard de Chardin, Hans Kung, Father Curran, Malcolm Boyd and Matthew Fox, although condemned by Church authorities today (some for their advocacy of women's and gay rights), may well prove to be the future voice of Christianity.

Even among Christian fundamentalists, homophobic figures such as Jesse Helms, Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts and James Bakker have been exposed as hypocrites and fools of late. Recent elections indicate even middle America may have had its fill of pompous preachers who would censor art and dictate an anti-sexual morality.

Personally I left the Church

several years ago because those currently dominating its hierarchy refuse to honor the moral legitimacy of my sexual orientation. I feel my own spiritual needs are better met in the practice of Zen Buddhism. But I do not consider Christianity an intrinsic evil just because certain of its advocates follow a theology of negativity that emphasizes sin, guilt, and a reactionary position on sexual questions. There are also Christians such as Mother Teresa and Jennifer Casolo (the Church worker recently arrested in El Salvador) who serve the poor, fight social injustice and set up AIDS hospices.

I feel I gained a lot that was good from my Catholic upbringing—a concern for honesty and a progressive social commitment. *The Gospel According to Matthew* remains a compelling political and spiritual document—the gay filmmaker Pasolini's film treatment of it was funded by the Vatican.

At the same time, as a gay man who supports women's rights, I will argue and fight against Church positions that attack these rights and against the misguided theology of fear and irrationality upon which these attacks are based. But instead of

just being consumed by anger for the failings of Christianity, I will also work with those who follow Christ's teachings to alleviate suffering and injustice in the world. The reason I will do this is not for the good of Christianity but for the good of myself. Excessive and constant anger is toxic and I have learned that whenever I categorize someone as "the enemy," they can be nothing else.

Steve Abbott was raised

Catholic and spent two years in a monastery studying the Bible, Church history and theology. His recent novel, *Holy Terror*, passionately critiques the barely repressed homoeroticism as well as homophobia so often evident in the Catholic Church.

Gerard Koskovich is a San Francisco artist, journalist, historian and cultural activist. His color prints are on display at *A Different Light Bookstore* through December.



Jesus and the Fairy Godmother
Tokio, Japan

Bible Epic Postcards Series 1985

Lesbo

(Continued from page 32)

just one kiss has the woman asking "Where can I get more of that?" A subsequent shot has her in a new short haircut standing under her laybri posters and reassuring her video audience that her headaches are all gone.

Miki Coralsky, who played the housewife in *New and Improved*, also worked on a number of the other videos. Her own untitled piece also featured television advertising but had a more sober mood. A soundtrack of blaring voices hawks roller skates and proclaims "you're only young once" to a passive viewer while the camera cuts to an unidentified woman as she slowly dresses in striped pajamas and pins on a roughly cut Star of David.

The plainly visible tattooed forearm establishes the context as the barefoot woman straps on a backpack and walks off down a street. The footage then appears on the television set in a few moments of pure silence before returning to the blare of ads. Through it all the woman watching never shows any response. The effect is eerie, haunting and

subtly terrifying.

Erotic/Emotional Obsession

Susan Bahn's *Obsession* struck a chord with much of the audience in the way it presented erotic and emotional obsession. Cutting from a butchy young woman strumming a guitar and singing "I only want to be with you" to closeups of a woman talking about unrequited attraction and the resulting grief and anger, the video managed to be first very funny and then quite sad. The switches to polarized images and repeated motif of "And you cry, and you cry, and you cry," were particularly strong.

The shortest video of the night, with the most effective sound track was *Bus Man* by Susan Bahns, which showed an enraged young man on a crowded bus flashing a threatening one-finger insult toward the unseen lesbian photographer. Repeated over and over the moment is both comic and terrible, and the grating sound track makes you think that at any moment the man will not just repeat his gesture but leap up out of his seat and spring violently toward the camera.

Excerpts from works in progress included *Lesbians and Addiction* by Leslie Krongold and *San Francisco Gay Pride* by April

Lankford and B. W. Lee. Krongold interviewed women on the street about their various addictions, which ranged from cigarettes to sex, while the brief selection from Lankford and Lee featured the sober contingent of Dykes on Bikes getting ready for the 1989 Gay Pride March. The range of lesbians shown in these videos was a delicious treat, from the neatly groomed suit-jacketed dykes outside the Patio Cafe to the punk-outfitted and brightly hairstyled Devil Dolls leaning on their motorbikes.

Perfectly ordinary everyday lesbian faces are rarely seen in video profile, and the effect of so many, even in a bare 60 minutes of total time, was startling and pleasing. This is what real lesbians look and sound like at the end of the most tedious decade and the beginning of what could be the most exciting.

If the LAVA collective does no more than encourage documentation of lesbian life in the nineties, it will have accomplished a great deal; from the evidence of their first screening, they will do a great deal more than that. The women of LAVA are making original, captivating videos framed with a uniquely lesbian critique of popular culture's most treasured images.

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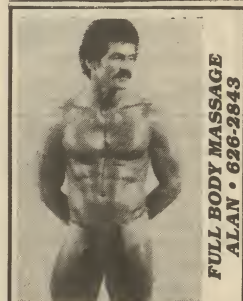
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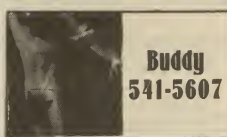
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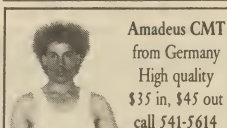
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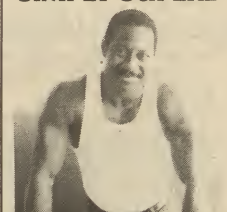
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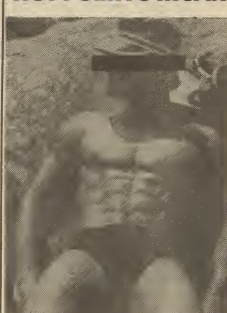
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muscles the attention they need.
ROBERT 567-6015

Erotic nude handsome 291-9590 ESI
Short Stop to Release. Get int.
Massage by 3 Young, Goodlook-
ing Asians. Call Lon or Nam or
Mike, 788-0380. ESI

★ MASTER ★
MASSEUR
Specializing in: sensual arousing,
euphoric technique blended with
cert. mass. by masc. musc. heal-
thy handsome hung. Andy 24hr.
826-5452 ESI

Full sensual, relaxing, erotic
massage by a gorgeous guy. Call
775-4771, 24 hr. ESI

LOST FOR WORDS
Pretty man hung 9", 6', 195,
B/Builder, blond, blu, nice big
hands, hot lotion rub.
GREAT FOR SHY TYPES
Adam 474-8027 \$50 in/\$65 out ESI

Hot oil massage by Italian body
builder Gino 861-0294. ESI

A dream come true massage by a
handsome, muscular bodyworker.
David 552-0473 ESI

FIRM HANDS
Hot oil and a healthy musc. Italian
puts you in a state of total relaxa-
tion. Call Michael, 665-5877 ESI

PLEASURE
Hot Hung Aggressive BB will give
you hot body massage with an
extra hot touch. in/out.
JEFF 923-9902 ESI

All men 50+. Best \$25 massage.
Great! Nick 552-5059. ESI

BLOND CANADIAN
Even if you're a little shy
One-of-a-kind-Man
When you need a
friendly hand, a warm,
sensual experience
& a fun man,
6', 195, nude, erotic
Swedish hot lotion rub.
Experienced
Ron • 922-3250 • 24hr

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Classified Ad Deadlines will be Fridays Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.
NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Massage

Massage for Asians by goodlooking muscular man. Student discount, 621-7530. ES1

East Bay Massage, sensual, erotic by tight, defined dancer, \$35. Alex 782-7309 ES2

21 YR OLD

I'm attractive, have a pleasant personality, and give wonderful, nurturing massages in the Nob Hill area. \$45 call Danny 9 am-midnight, 7 days, 563-6672. ES2

Authentic Wholistic

SENSUAL MASSAGE \$50 by appt. 861-7020, Max ES2

Fabulous Hands, Sensuous Touch, Great Massage! Get the attention you need, \$45/90 min. Chris 285-9710 ES2

SAN JOSE MASSAGE

Certified Jim (408) 358-3036 ES2

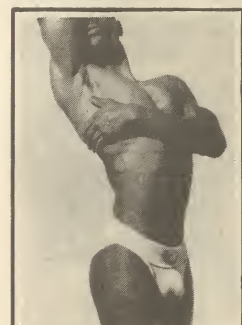
SOOTHING MASSAGE

Relax and enjoy a deep massage by a goodlooking Italian Chris 285-1469 ES2

Incredible Trained Hands

WANNA MELT?
Certified 18th & Noe, \$35 Jim 864-2430 ES2

DADDY'S LITTLE DEVIL
is a mind blower at 6'1", a solid 222lbs, 28, hairy. 826-5452, 24hrs, Li'l Mike. ES1



For a sensual massage • in/out
Call Dick 255-0730

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are coming

**RELAX!
TREAT YOURSELF
FOR THE HOLIDAYS**



1 1/2 hours of quality bodywork. A professional and nurturing Swedish-Esalen massage for men & women. A wonderful way to reduce stress, pain & fatigue. California State Certified. \$40/session. Convenient Duboce Triangle location. **Tom Lombardo 553-4073**
Gift Certificates Available.

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Marin-SF, Hot BB Massage 10 am-10 pm \$50/70 Ken 459-4217 ES1

R. RIVER SPECIAL

Sensual Massage at its best/Video Fun Tues thru Fri only. Mark (707) 578-0214 ES1

Asian American Masseur Certified, \$50/\$60. 285-9019 ES3

Models & Escorts

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YOUR HOT BUDDY **DAVE**

For Satisfaction-PLUS!

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Silicon Valley Boy-Toy

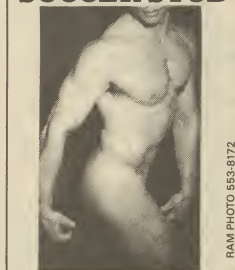
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From Business Suit to Just Leather Bow-Tie (or ...?), This Boy-Toy is 31, 5'11", 175, XXX-Hung-Cut, 42" Muscular Hairy Pace, Hot Hairless Butt, Muscular Legs, 33" Waist ...

MASSAGE RATE: \$50 first hour. Erotic Full-Body Massage. Singles & couples. ESCORT RATE: \$175/hour (for Execs)

masculine straight-looks

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**Very Muscular
Incredible Legs
Genuinely Handsome
(415) 933-STUD in/out**

★ \$40-Hot athlete. Hung nice. ★
★ Bill 441-1054 Massage, etc. ★ ES1

Hot-Blooded Buddy

Hot young stud. Super Endowed. Thick power tool. Rock-hard body. Low hangers. Vincent \$75 #415-MAN-8535

Competitive Titleholder Bodybuilder

26 yrs, 250#, 56"ch, 33"w, 20"arms V-shape, X-hung, X-handsome 495-6345 or Bpr no. 764-9244 Dirk

UNCUT GERMAN STUD PAGER -739-7674

ITALIAN DADDY Hung and Hairy 239-8419

CASTRO AREA LOCATION

Handsome Bodybuilder In/Out • Anytime Ken-272-9418 Also, East Bay location

Models & Escorts



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Evenings, Weekends
out only • 648-0902

Bisexual Jock



Skip 881-8919

ATHLETE
5'11" 200LB SOLID
HANDSOME MASCULINE
CLEANCUT 27 YO
NOT LIKE THE REST
MIKE 621-4082 ES1

HANDSOME BLOND
Tall, 6'3", smooth, slender, 20, hung 7 1/2, always hot, prefer older men. 342-6203. ES2

Two Hot Punks call anytime 995-4728 ES2

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For the top man who knows what he wants (707) 869-9461 ES2

Leathr-nylon man 863-3862 ES1

Tall Hairy Hung, a man for your pleasure. call Big John 978-0163 night & day. ES2

If you want a young one who is smooth & slender

THIS BOY'S 4U
call Dave at 864-0670 ES2

Private Indoor Heated Pool with Two Hot Guys makes a Pleasure Palace for your enjoyment. 861-7176, 24hrs. ES2

VIRILE SEXY ITALIAN
Hot, gdlkg, rockhard muscles & athl legs. Vers, healthy, yng, hung, tall Marine type. Anytime. No BS. **Dan 753-8604**

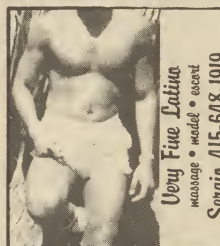


KEN • 928-5826 • \$100

Models & Escorts



239-8419

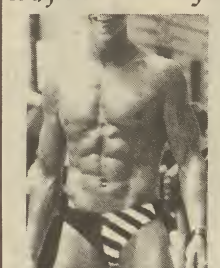


Very Fine Latin
massage • model • escort
Sergio 415-648-1919

MEN in LOVE

are coming

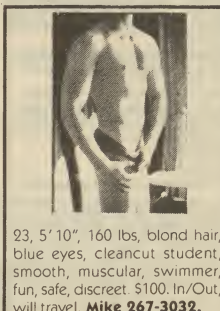
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Happy Holidays to all from
DAVID 929-7336
10% Discount on Gift Certificates

CUTE & ROMANTIC

TEDDY BEAR
Hdsm & Masculine Latino
Guy, 26, Smooth Swimmer's
Build, 5'7", 140lbs, delicious
buns, passionate & versatile.
Let my hands relax
& please you.
CARLOS 465-0231
\$45 in \$60 out 24 hrs.



23, 5'10", 160 lbs, blond hair, blue eyes, cleancut student, smooth, muscular, swimmer, fun, safe, discreet. \$100. In/Out, will travel. **Mike 267-3032.**

Models & Escorts

**VERY DARK
VERY MUSCULAR
VERY TOP**

Black Man offers fun and games to interested bottoms.

**James \$100
534-0982**

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Ask for B.J. \$40
HEAD-MY WAY! 864-5483 ES1

HOT HAWAIIAN HUNK

27 smooth & muscular
for striptease massage of j/o
Shawn 255-4691 ES1

Very Gdlkg, Blond, Blue
**19 YEAR OLD
GOLDEN BOY**
Safe, Well-Hung Beach Boy
ERIK 864-0670 ES1

BLACK BOY
22, 155, 5'11", hairy ass, hung,
versatile, hot, \$70 in, Carl
441-1959 ES1

Mohawk Tattoos Boots
Leather Jacket call
995-4728 ES1

Hung and Lean Driving Machine
needs a rev-up and polish.
Steve: 647-2171 ES1

Athletic Gymnast, 5'8", 150lbs.
leave msg Jeff 541-5617. ES1

CUM ONE CUM ALL
Enjoy Xmas toy w/a yng 25yr. 6'
160 lbs jock type top bottom older
men welcomed. Discreet hot
hung out only. E. Bay-S.F. tos \$60.
482-0504 ES1

Be the angel on top of my tree.
\$80 441-2941 ES1

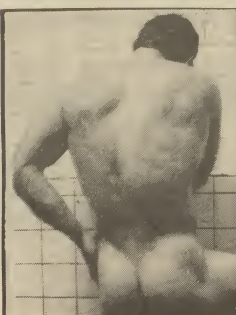
DADDEASE BOY



VINNIE
\$100 • 474-1946

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

Models & Escorts



JASON
175 lbs., 5'8 1/2", 46"C, 29"W
864-2070 • \$115

NEW ON THE BLOCK

Fun Loving Stud
Tanned Italian
V-Shaped Torso
NINE INCHER
KEITH
346-6505 \$85/\$90

MUSCLES
HARD CORE
6', 260#, 22"a, 59"c, 28"t
Steve 563-5176

FRAT BOY
Dominant • Verbal • Long Lasting
Horse Hung, Collegiate Jock
Masculine, Muscular
Swimmer's Build
Craig \$80 in/out
(415) 626-8535
Dial no., wait 3 bps. Punch yr. no. & # sign
Wait 3 bps again. Hang up. Pager 739-7527

MAN FOR HIRE
Beard • Built • Hung
Cigars • Tattoos
Verbal • Dominant
and a helluva nice guy
6' • 170# • 38 y.o.
\$100+ Cory 928-7572

255-9776 MARC



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ALL-AMERICAN
B O Y
25 y.o. swimmer lays back for
W O R S H I P
Handsome, clean-cut, wholesome.
TREAT 775-3114 No B.S.

Imagine yourself tied spread-eagle—
there's a short, hot bodybuilder top with some... unusual
devices. You hurt so good you don't know whether to shoot
or go blind! Safe? Hell, yes! Creative? Explore the bound-
aries of pleasure, pain, and sensuality with a stable, built,
experienced sadist. **ROGER, 864-5568.**
—Real S&M in a safe place—

Models & Escorts

*** BLOND & BLUE ***
Hung, Hot, Chris 864-1524 ES1

Man for hire hairy beard well hung
Steve 37 6'2" 180 431-5974 in or
out. ES1

Handsome Muscular Blond
MASTER BATOR +
Ron 863-3270 a.m./p.m. discreet ES1

BEER-CAN SIZE
Lollipop on 6', 165# Santa, 24hr
callback 627-5635 ES1

SURFER BOY
Hhhot! Jay 255-9776 ES1

All American Boy, wholesome, 21,
5'8", blond, blue, smooth. in
\$140+, out \$180+. call me at
921-3676, Paul ES1

Horsehung 10 1/2" around, hry, 37,
tattooed, (707) 995-1856. Hry
men 50+ pref. \$75 & up. ES1

20, blond, smooth & fun.
Nicholas, \$80, 441-2941 ES1

Paul 252-1530 ES1

Hot Young Bottom
Alex 861-2733 ES1

Hunky, married, 36, sm. endow.
nds attention, \$50, out only.
Pager 539-3914, enter yr. no + #.
ES3

Man with a belt 928-7572 ES5

Foot Worship
Al 928-5826 \$60 ES1

FR/GR LESSONS
Mark's Body Language, 24 hr.
training & videos 648-6081 ES1



RAM PHOTO 553 8172

KURT • 255-4601

COCKY BOY DIGS WORSHIP

25 y.o. punk likes his 7'
idol worshipped. Cocky,
verbal, dominant—
A rebel with a cause.
TONY 864-3133

BIG
BEAUTIFUL
TOOL NEEDS WORSHIP
Your Nice Hardware Serviced
Also. Sexy, Muscular, Friendly,
Hot. 6ft, 160lbs., 30yrs, Hung,
THIK 8". Visa/MC. Major
Hotels. Checks OK.
ORREL 985-9944

• WOLF •



Masculine • Blond • XXXHung
• 753-6539 •

ALL MEN

Are Not Created Equal
6' 175lb. 29w 42c brn/blu
ONE HANDSOME MAN
Chiseled/Washboard/Friendly
Honest Thick Nine
MASSAGE INCLUDED
\$100 • 863-SEXY

Oakland Phallic Worship. Safe
Gentle Top, 5'5", 142, Hairy,
FR A/P, GR/A, J/O, Verbal. \$70 In
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FOR MEN 40+
27, 5'9", #145, hung
big, into all fantasies
JIM 441-3131
Outcalls \$75

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Male models
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Massage
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Be satisfied later
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Brian, 24 y.o., 155, 5'8", call
anytime 587-1430. ES1

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BOY NEXT DOOR
Quality attention for gentlemen
who appreciate:
★ 19, 6', 160lbs ★
smooth, tight, swimmer
friendly, intelligent
passionate, discreet
Todd, \$150 out, 655-4437 ES1

HOT MAN FOR HIRE
626-2037 Bud ES1

9" STUDDUFFIN
very cute w/long dk hair, yummy
surfer top w/9", warm & fun.
Kurt 541-5616 ES2

TIMMY
6'4" tall, 185lbs.
Bottom, 21 yrs, 7" cut
\$150 in/out
call 587-0736 ES1

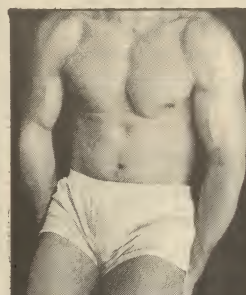
Hot Italian Bottom
23, hairy, 8", 80 in, 100 out
334-8245 Russell ES2

Isn't It Romantic?
Tall, Handsome, 27 yrs.
Rich, 861-1362, in/out ES1

HOT TOP
Handsome, professional man, 32,
6'8", 220, 7" x 5", brn/grn if
you're hot for it, call Brent
863-3823, \$80/\$100. ES2

Models & Escorts

**"TRY ME AGAIN; FOR
THE FIRST TIME."**
German Gladiator w/Knock-out Good
Looks & Enormous Long & Thick Slab of
Flesh! 864-0538 "Fritz" Always a Top
"SERIOUS CALLS ONLY, DON'T
WASTE MY TIME OR YOURS!"



DAN
\$100 • 922-3645

Fresh from Atlanta HOT BLACK TOP

Bulging thighs, pecs, arms,
v-shape torso, rippling abs,
hung big and thick
for a real man, call:
Jerome 626-9031 ES1

TALL BLACK STUD
Gdkg, sexy, 6'4", 185 gym-toned
pounds. Well hung thick uncut
top. out only. Marshall 995-4746
ES2

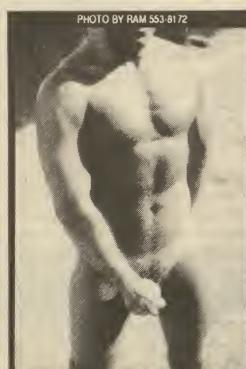
ATHLETIC STUD
6ft. 27yo ex-wrestler 44 in. chest,
hairy masculine
STEVE 648-0902 ES1

SPANKING, B&D \$40
ZOLT 771-8042 ES1

BEST FR. IN S.F.
626-2037 David ES1

Yng Gdkg Latino—150 lbs., 10"
thick, sexy, will squeeze you &
please you. Massage also,
776-0815. ES1

COMPETITION B.B.
5'10", 225lbs., 52"ch.,
31"w, 28"th., Hung
Bigger, Harder • Vince
\$100, In-Out **495-6345**



252-0775
SEXY 8" UNCUT • HUNG ITALIAN

Models & Escorts

TOP FUN

Good looking, friendly stud
Extra thick—Extra hung!!!
Anthony \$80.
864-6436

Hairy, beerbelly, brd, daddy bear
5'11", 225lbs, 39yrs, 995-4754
ES1

Real attractive, hot-looking
model-escort-masseur. Call:
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HAVE GLOVES/TRAVEL
FF top, 15 yrs. exp, husky, \$70,
blond, butch 861-2668, Andy.
ES1

Uninhibited Hunk
Rugged hndsm hunk with a solid
muscular body for U.
Rick 621-3990 Anytime. ES1

FF, TT, B/D, TOYS
Gloves, Exp., Kinky, Andy, Husky,
5'9", 185, blond, mus., 861-2668
\$70 24hr. Safe. Exp. ES1

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Rick Donovan

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The Bigger the Better • Giants
On Top • King Size, etc. etc.
TOP • SAFE • In/Out
26yrs, 5'11", 172lbs, 10 1/2"
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Private Party, Not an Agency

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Thick and Big
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SWIMMER



SCOTT • \$100
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6'4", 195#, hairy, ex-Army Sgt.
Chuck 431-1579 ES1

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Classified Ad Deadlines will be Fridays Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.
NO EXCEPTIONS!



BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

Countdown to The '90s

In just 10 more days, the '80s will be a thing of the past. All the good times and the bad times will pass in review as we slip into the '90s. In the waning days, it's with much pride that San Francisco's gay community can look back at the many accomplishments they've succeeded with in coalescing to make life easier for the sick, the homeless and the needy.

A big pat on the back for the countless volunteers who really work hard on committees that raise money.

At times, I know, you've felt nicked and dimed to death, but there can be no letting up. Gloomy forecasts for the number of sick we will have in our midst means only one thing: don't give up now. Many of you have been in the vanguard for many years now; I know you're tired and feeling helpless. But the fight must go on and fresh blood, new ideas and a strengthened fervor are what we need now.

If you have not been involved, why not make an effort to help out? And to those of you who have been doing more than expected, thanks and thanks again. Your devotion, your energy, your ideas and your time have helped make our city the "model" that's the envy of every community around the nation.

As Shanti Director Eric Rofes has stated, AIDS was the "glamour" cause in the early '80s, but the glamour is gone as the realities of death face many of us almost daily. People are tired, and impatient with the lack of our government's concern and dragging their feet in dispensing funds that are urgently needed. Until the government speeds up and increases appropriations for the many expenses of AIDS, it's up to us, once again, to take care of our own. And until a cure is found, we can never give up the effort.

Hopefully, you can dedicate the '90s to doing your fair share to help out. Never mind the bickering and the personalities who cannot agree on procedures. Those who are in it for their own personal aggrandizement will leave the ranks soon enough. The sincerely dedicated will remain, as always there to do their fair share and more.

There are many areas where your particular talent(s) can be used. Explore the different organizations/services which you feel you could help. Truly, truly, you'll feel much better about yourself and keeping busy helps diffuse the pain you may be feeling at the loss of a friend, a lover, or a relative. Such a waste. Such a drain on the vast talent and beautiful people who have been taken away from us.

Face the '90s with a renewed hope and vigor to continue your support and assistance to those who truly need it. It's one of the best Christmas presents you can give to yourself and your gay family. Believe me.



Tony, the Perfect Man Poster star performs at the I-Beam on New Years Eve at 12:30. (Photo: Courtesy of the I-Beam)

J/O NIGHTLY Club 1808 Market

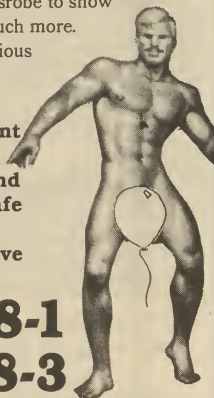
- Where your fantasy men disrobe to show washboard stomachs—and much more.
- Where macho, health-conscious men circle-jerk together in a clean atmosphere.

Behind the battered front of the 1808 Club, the hottest men from S.F. and beyond enjoy a clean, safe play arena, mirrored tabletops for jerkoffs, live video, and videotapes.

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- Mandatory clothes check, except shoes
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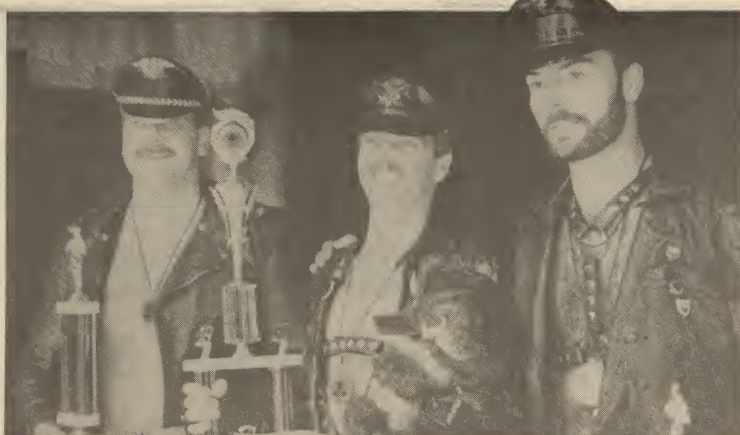
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The winners of Mr. Bum Steer Leatherman (Phoenix) left to right: Norm Jeffries, 2nd runner up, Eric Nines, winner, and Dean Rosie.

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

There was a lot of action around the campus since last we met on these pages. Parties galore in private trysting places; the volunteers and supporters of all the service agencies in our midst took time out of their dedicated efforts to have a short respite and celebrate their accomplishments—the AIDS Emergency Fund and Shanti Project for example.

The guys selling the Bare Chest 1990 calendar on 18th and Castro were surprised over the weekend when this dude pulled up in an elegant Saab and dropped off a check for ten calendars to be picked up later. When they looked at the check, it was for \$1,000! That's \$100 a calendar with a \$10 price tag. While the sellers didn't know the gentleman, when they showed me the check, I knew him right away. A man who's main business is selling to the gay community and giving it back. Thanks, K.K., you're a real peach!

★ ★ ★

In what looks like a long "leather" season, the Bum Steer in Phoenix picked their contestant for the Mr. Arizona Leather competition. Last Saturday, Dec. 16, six leathermen jumped into the fray taking place all over the country in the march toward International Mr. Leather 1990.

It was a shivery night out there in the Valley of the Sun, but the fervor was at high pitch and the leather guys of the area turned out in full force. Mr. Leather Arizona and Mr. SW Drummer

Rick Conder was the head judge along with Mr. Southern California Drummer '88 Mark Klein and Ms. Terri Trotter (a candidate for Ms. Arizona Leather). Their job was to pick a winner out of six aspirants to the title. The audience got to inject their input as well, adding points to those of the judges.

There was the "do your own thing" entrance, the jock strap portion, and the leather image scores coupled with the pre-judging interviews earlier in the afternoon.

Between their appearances the audience was treated to some better than excellent musical renditions by Greg Foster and Sherri Kimmerling. These two sang individually and in duet and brought the house down. Sherri was voted Female Entertainer of the Year in 1988 and previous years by *Western Express* Readers' Choice Awards. I dare say, one or both of them will appear on some stage here before 1990 is over.

When all the preliminaries were done and said, the moment of truth was at hand. The 2nd runner-up was Norm Jeffries; the 1st runner-up was Dean Rosie, and Mr. Bum Steer Leatherman 1990 is Eric Niner. (His name has nothing to do with his sexual appendage or our football team!)

Eric is 29 years old, a former resident of Guerneville, CA, and works as a waiter in Phoenix. Almost 6 feet tall, Eric is a philosophical type and an athlete—he's also single. He'll face contestants from around the state at the Mr. Arizona Leather contest later this year and is the Bum Steer's hope for representation in Chicago next May.

★ ★ ★

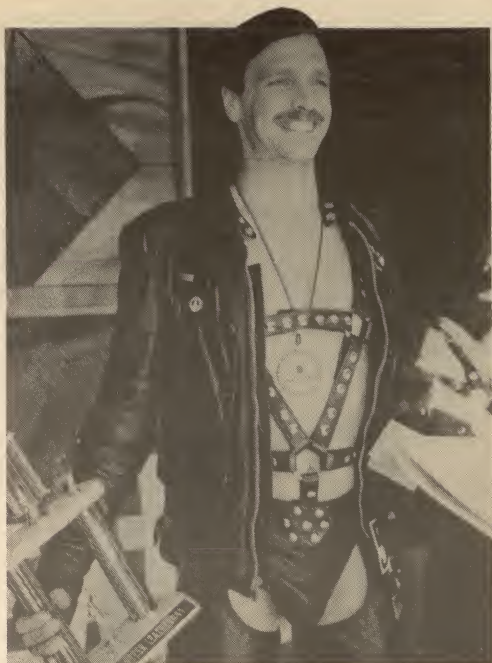
S.O.S! S.O.S! The committee making it possible for AIDS/ARC patients, friends and families is gratified to the community for all the support you've given them. On Christmas Eve, over 1,000 people will be fed thanks to your generosity. They don't need anymore money or anymore food. But they need volunteers to help transport items to the War Memorial Green Room (vans and trucks and stout-hearted men). If you can donate a couple of hours on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 22 and 23, and Sunday night, 1530-1930 to help clear the premises, give Zach a call at 661-8290 or call 546-5628. They also need help for the Larkin Street Youth Center feed on Christmas Day at Old First Church, Van Ness and Sacramento streets, from 0900-1200 and 1300-1600. Call 661-8290 if you can donate the time.

★ ★ ★



Mr. Bum Steer Leatherman contestants left to right: Norm Jeffries, Eric Nines, Dean Rosie, Jose Angeles, Todd Hulet and Dave Hammer.

(Photo: Marcus)



Eric Nines is Mr. Bum Steer Leatherman (Phoenix) for 1990.

Sorry to report the passing away on Dec. 9 of Marcel Genis, the lover of International Mr. Leather Tom Karasch. Marcel was a quiet but friendly leather man who stood by Tom's side throughout his year as International Mr. Leather. Lovers and partners in business for many years, Marcel was last in San Francisco for the Mr. Drummer finals. Our condolences stretch across the miles to Tom.

★ ★ ★

The action news for New Years Eve is coming out of the cracks fast and furious. So you can make your decision(s) and plan(s): At Dreamland, it's "Party to the Nines" for \$20 in advance (tickets at all Headlines stores). Robbie Leslie will be spinning. It goes from 2130 through Monday evening. It promises to be festive with all the New Years Eve accoutrements to help you bring in the Gay '90s.

Muscle pulchritude will prevail at the I-Beam's "Decade" party. Long time party boy John Vukas joins Sanford & Son Bradley. Doors open at 1700 on Sunday, Dec. 31 and you can get in free until 2100. After that, it's only \$10 with the I-Beam "pass."

At 2100, E.G. Dailey, the A&M recording artist, will perform her "Some People" and "Say It, Say It" hits. The men come on at 0030 with Tony, pictured somewhere on this page; Stephan at 0130. Ace (Men of Hawaii calendar star) will step out first. Tony on the Perfect Man Poster and Stephan is an international model and a Colt 1990 calendar man. Dance 'til dawn; hot model men;

E.G. Dailey—what more could you ask for?

There's the big Millenium party at Probe in Los Angeles. They'll be living it up at Esta Noche and the Mint with lots of entertainment and at the Galleon too. Don't sit home. Leather galore at the Powerhouse, Eagle, My Place, the Stud, Watering Hole.

★ ★ ★

Coming your way: Tonight, Thursday, Dec. 21, Christmas parties at both the SF Eagle and the Powerhouse. Fabulous buffet at the Eagle starting at 2100. Cocktail specials at the Powerhouse. Everybody's favorite Saucy Aussie, Kim Whittington blew into town last night and will be bivouacing with George "Mr. Boots" Burgess throughout his long stay. On Jan. 12-14, he'll join the hundreds heading for Washington, D.C. for the Centaur MC's Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest and joining Patrick Toner, Vern Stewart, Michael Pereyra and other California dudes who will make a "sweep" at the D.C. Eagle and Trax if they have their way.

Friday, Dec. 22—finish your shopping and afterward, join the K'thar Sissies' Solstice Satyrnalia and ritual orgy. Wear your pagan attire at 890 Folsom. Enter between 2100-2200 for \$7 and if you need more info, call 543-3433.

Go out and mingle with leather dudes. Ignore those wearing white sneakers with leather and cologne.

If you haven't got your shopping done yet, check out Worn Out West at 582 Castro. Newly relocated after the devastating fire

on Howard Street, WOW has lots of used (read: worn and broken in) Levis and leather, boots, motorcycle jackets, chaps, etc. Sell some of your stuff; buy some of their stuff. They're open from 1100-1800 Monday through Saturday and from 1200-1800 on Sundays! Tell co-owners Joe and Rob I sent you. You'll love the selection(s).

Saturday, Dec. 23—it's Christmas time countdown and time for last minute shopping. Go out and mingle some more; deck your balls, er, halls. Go to the parties on the invitations you got. Call your pals in the provinces. Tell 'em it doesn't seem like Christmas here without snow (or rain). Brag about the 49ers winning their division and how they're going to absolutely kill the Dreaded Ditka team tomorrow.

Sunday, Dec. 24—the staff of the Eagle put on the beer bust with "specials"—food, men, tourists, S&S, S&M, S&L, S&D. Try the latest "in" drink—it's called a *Cocksucker*: a shot of Butterscotch Schnapps with a float of Bailey's Irish Cream!

If you know any hot leather women, encourage them to enter the Ms. Leather of SF Contest slated for January. They're having Christmas Eve services at MCC at 1900 and 2300. Get there early! On Christmas Day, services at 1100 followed by a community potluck dinner. Bring your favorite dish (or dish your favorite).

Once again, thanks for all your support for the worthy charities in our community. Have a wonderful Christmas and I know you'll have a Frantic First!

P.S.: The correct address for the SF Street Fair Follies video is 2215-R Market St., SF, CA 94114!



Ms. Leather of SF '89 Nina Darst and Intl. Mr. Leather '88 "Iron" Mike Pereyra send Christmas greetings to leather men and women everywhere. (Photo: Marcus)

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The Mr. Bum Steer Leathermen in the jockstrap competition (Photo: Marcus)



Velvet Monet, current Empress of Portland.

Christmas Dish

Well here it is again. I mean wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Mark your calendar for Gilmore's Christmas party which will be on Sunday, Jan. 7 from 5 until 7 p.m. Join them as it is always a blast.

Do hope that Michelle and Debbie the dyke have a nice Christmas and that their New Year's resolution will be no fights. Hope to see you soon, Michelle.

Jim Spillman is giving Bette Bonko a gift certificate to the Betty Ford Center for abuse of Vodkaism for Christmas.

Did you know that Tatiana's 1st Saturdays at Kimo's has raised \$16,950 for AIDS organizations since its first Saturday? A nice thing you have done, dear. The next one is on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10 p.m., so don't miss it.

This Friday is the Mint's Christmas party with Wally Kumb

at the piano. Do drop by for a libation and a good time.

Flash... On Saturday, Jan. 6, Stanley Boyd will be celebrating his 60th from 3 till 6 p.m. at the Union Hall Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Ave. You are all invited to attend. In lieu of gifts, leave donations at the door for the Godfather Fund. Happy Birthday, Stanley, and a nice idea.

Well, so far I have done the Polk Street area to see all of the wonderful Christmas decorations in the bars, and they have a lot of wonderful ones. Flame did the Polk Gulch and Kimo's and they both are great. The Cinch, as someone said, looks like a Mission Street whatever. No offense, Mario, I like it. And of course I have to mention Reflections or owner George will be offended. Jackie did the Hob Nob and the Yacht Club, very understated but smart. But my vote for the best in the area will have to go to the White Swallow. Sensational, and of course the best window is Don Detant's at Le Salon.

Well, Durwood and I just returned from Portland, thanks to Paul Bently, a.k.a. Luscious Lorelei, after two wonderful fun-filled and drunken days. This time we got them all as Steve Suss and Paul kept this a secret and we really got Mame and a host of others including Lucy. We went up to look for a piece of property, but haven't settled on anything yet.

There is a multitude of people coming down from Portland, for the Silver Anniversary and for the Coronation as well as Men Behind Bars so that weekend in February should be a long and drunken one.

Portland's hospitality is

fabulous and Empress Velvet Monet was a gracious hostess. Hi Paul of the Embers Avenue. Flossie's does a brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. for only \$2.95—for all you can eat for as long as you can eat.

The Hob Nob will be having a Christmas buffet on Christmas day from 2 p.m. on, so come on down and join us. And thank you, Champagne Jack, for working during Maxine's vacation with her Don in Las Vegas. You did an

exceptional job—do you want one?

Dolly Dale has gone off to Alabama to be with the folks for the holidays and will be missed. A great way to fly, Alaskan Airlines, they upgraded us to first class and it was sensational, especially since Durwood has never traveled that way before. The guys behind us from Mexico made it very interesting.

Well, here is hoping you all have a happy holiday. ▼



A Holiday Card

by Jay Noonan

Hear ye, hear ye, my brethren, come one, come all Give this last Christmas of the eighties its due beck & call.

Merry bells, Mr. Marcus ex-Emp, Mike Winnings, Paulie Walekar at the top of Twin Peaks.

Cheers Wayne Friday, Craig (that's Ada or Ruth) plus Mr. Mollet, Mr. Bently. Call Lucious, Mr. Richie call Lips, they're thinking silver and it's ever so chic.

Happy Hannukah, La La Fern and Jim Cohen Parker, mazel tov Tony and Tim and the warmest of blinnis to Peter and Janet on old Puget Sound.

And whilst in the north, on to the city of roses. Keep wassail cups flowing for Sussey & Lucy, Big Blanche, dear Mame and the late Ezra Pound.

On Greg! On Didi! On li' ole Max & Ali! And to Jan God Bless. Who but Santa, Duane & Patricia could dress you for less?

Silver bells, Miss Joyce, Mr. Mitch, Messrs Alan, Eddie and Boo. "Proust" Mr. Robert of Ross, Dick Petrof, Rhuela Linska all will share this holiday hello, with dear Craigy of Kimo's and Mr. Fu Manchoo.

"Skool" Mr. Marks, the Burtons, Mr. Molinari, are those hard acts to follow?

Hats off to Delmar & Dick, dear Durwood & Douglas, good Jesse, have a grand Christmas spread.

A mistletoe wreath for Kimo and Russell, my Randy Mr. Fud-pucker both known as Fred.

Give a ton of black coal to Mr. Kopp and all who gave a new stadium a shiner,

But thanks dear Santa for the champion "Jints" and the Super Bowl-bound "Niners."

Give a rabbit's foot charm to Marlena, Tatiana, and Lee Greta Grass for aspiring to things regal.

"Joyous Noel" bouncing Bette Bonko, June and her George, also for Stella & Terry down at the Eagle.

Bon Natale Tony Lasagna, good pasta always Tony III and the good Mayor Art.

Thanks Nancy Pelosi, Roberta and of course Charlotte and Peggy for always doing their part.

To those in the pasture may the grazing be selective—That's Paul and Pam, Janos and Harry, Tiny Birdy and Brian, Mr. Wilma, Bob Frank may your grog & tinsel truly be festive.

All 'board T.A. Smith, dear Chet and Larry. Rush to get a seat on Kris Kringle's sled.

Feliz Navidad, Modesto & Garrett, Mike Greer and his Scott. Hi hos, ho hos are elementary dear Scott Watson, Mike Winston and oh yes more Beethoven for sly Mr. Jed.

And for those who have left us, we all know where you are. Hello my luv, Bill Sickle, Marvin Mouse, our Candi and Polly way out there afar.

Sweet Jorge please give Juanita (Bill Wallace) a nudge and blow a kiss to my mom who's on the next star.

To those of you whose names I have missed, happy holidays. All go with peace and with love and blame it on my old mental machine.

But let's look to a new year, a new decade, with less "me" and more "us."

Also restore all this city's people to a bright lustrous sheen.

So happy new year dear friends from ole Daddy Cow.

Let San Francisco be again the city that really knows how. ▼

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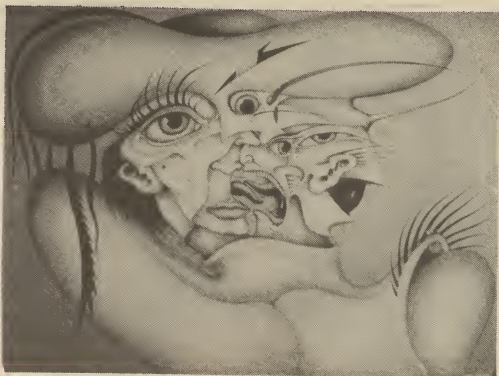
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Steve Connett's "Internal Tension" is part of the show.
(Courtesy of Art Lick Gallery)

Gallery

(Continued from page 28)
No "Art Boys" These

No, these are no "art boys." They're committed, working artists and serious businessmen. They don't believe in the myth of the starving artist, either.

Seibold says, "To be a successful artist means being a successful business person. You have to be able to talk about your work. You need to be able to justify why you do it, what it means to you, why you price it the way you do. We want this gallery to be a stepping stone for artists, and these are skills we can help people polish as they're on their way up."

Seibold and da Rosa's dual commitment—to artists and to consumers of art—is cast against an even larger screen by the controversies now raging everywhere over art's "appropriate" expression. A growing number of people—including the likes of Jesse Helms and Byron Campbell (the Concord mayor whose current crusade is to dismantle Gary Rieveschl's massive outdoor sculpture, "Spirit Poles")—appear to believe that the most important thing you can know about a work of art is whether or not you like it.

Providing an education against that kind of simplemindedness is another of Art Lick's functions. (This mission is even embedded in the gallery's name. "An 'art lick,'" explains Seibold, "is similar to the concept of a salt lick—a necessity of life. And a 'lick' is a taste of something, which is what we present here. We don't give just one flavor. The palette is constantly changing.")

Seibold concludes, "To many people, if a work of art doesn't speak its message to them right away, they don't know how to approach it or even how to stand in front of it. At the same time, a lot of people want the education that a space like this provides, a place where they can find out about things they don't know—different styles of contemporary art work, things that may be puzzling or difficult. And where they don't have to feel afraid to say, Who is this artist, I never heard of him, or What is he trying to do here?"

"Just looking at art is, in itself, an education. It challenges our boundaries."

14 Artists: A Group Exhibit
Art Lick Gallery, 4147 19th Street at
Collingwood; through Jan. 14
621-5131

Gay/Lesbian Programs

Helping Hands

Monday, 7 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6

Dr. Farkle's Christmas Message

Friday, Dec. 22, 5 p.m., S.F. Viacom 25

Messiah Theatre Productions

Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 25: Starring "De John De Messiah" and entourage.

Kevin Gladstone's "Straight Talk"

Wednesday, (1st, 3rd) 4:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 25

Healing Ourselves

Wednesday, (2nd, 4th) 10 p.m., S.F. Viacom 25

Community Action Network News

Monday, 7:30 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30
Wednesday, (1st, 3rd) 10 p.m., PCTV (Oakland, East Bay)
Thursday, (1st, 3rd) 6:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6

Outlook

Wednesday, (1st & 3rd) 9 p.m., PCTV (Oakland, NE Bay)
Thursday, Weekly, 8:30 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30; (4th)
6:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6

Friday, (2nd, 4th) 7:30 p.m., Los Altos, Cupertino Cable 30:

"Women Take Back The Night" rally; Sup. Harry Britt discusses reviving domestic partners; gay Xmas shopping; resident wit Bennet Marks; meet our new hosts Dan & Dee Dee.

Electric City

Sunday, 10 p.m., S.F. Viacom 35
Tuesday, 10 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30
Wednesday, 8 p.m., S.F. Viacom Cable 35

Friday, 7:30 p.m., KCAT South Bay Cable: Visits to the Gauntlet with Jim Wood and more holiday havoc.

Hibernia Beach

Sunday, 7:30 a.m., KITS 105.3 FM: Ken McPherson on issues of concern for men.

Fruit Punch

Wednesday, 10 p.m., KPFA 94.1 FM: News, interviews, reviews.

Healing Tales

Monday, 8:30 p.m., KALW 91.7 FM: A holiday cornucopia includes the rare story by poet Robert Duncan: "The Honey Moon Bees and The Busy Man's Garden."

Henry V

(Continued from page 32)

the doors we see Henry as a silhouette in a huge cloak in the muted darkness of candles as he enters the throne room while a pack of hangers-on await.

A Lived-in Face

We haven't seen Branagh's face yet, but we know this is no ordinary film and Branagh with his young but lived-in face is no fop from the Boar's Head with ale dribbling down his chin.

Olivier was held down by his times and the requirement to lift the spirit, but Branagh has no such impediment. We hence see everything flying at us, including the exhilaration of battle—and a lot of exhausting mayhem in the mud—while at the same time Branagh portrays the ugliness, waste and squalor of war.

Actor-Director Branagh definitely wanted a mood piece and it seems the entire film is shot without much light in the shadows with torches and a haze of soot. The costumes employ muted colors—none of Olivier's bold crimsons—and the sets tend toward browns and greys.

This isn't a pretty film and the Boar's Head scenes are so deliciously grimy and bleak, and the exteriors so often under the cloud of day, that you wonder whether the sun ever made an appearance in this era.

"Naturalistic Verse"

The biggest surprise of *Henry V* is what Branagh himself calls the film's use of "naturalistic verse" that is so astonishing that the viewer nearly forgets the speaking style is of another space and time. The effect is mesmerizing and may prove the greatest salvation to the skittish Shake-

sperean holdouts who need an excuse to take the plunge.

Another enticement is Branagh's tight ensemble cast, including Paul Scofield, Ian Holm, Alec McCowan and Judi Dench (as the weary Mistress Quickly who probably does the most poignant turn when she describes Falstaff's death following his abandonment by young Harry).

Purists may carp at interpretations here and there, but Branagh's concept of Henry works, as does his performance. His steady jaw and darting eyes constantly keep the viewer in doubt whether Henry the boy or the man is really in charge. ▼

Henry V
Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary Blvd.
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Late Show Fri & Sat: 11:30 PM

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Vivid Comes Through

by Mark Johnson

GRIDIRON

Vivid Video
Fine Line Producers
Directed by: Patrick Dennis
Cast: David Rockmore, Buck Tanner, Thorn Wilder, Michael Moore, Rick Lee, Tom Chandler, Grant Howard, Trevor Daley, Rick Racer, Steven Craig.

I told you a couple of columns ago that I would let you know if I came across a decent Vivid Video, and I guess my wish is their command. Vivid begins a new sports-oriented series with *Gridiron*, which has the largest cast of any previous Vivid release. The models are all above average and the sex stimulating.

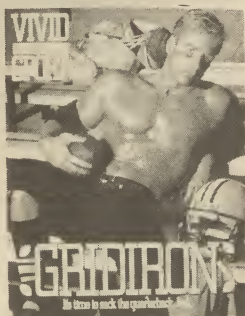
Patrick Dennis has finally gotten the hang of things and lets the models do—well, what they're being paid to. The story surrounds the football team's new quarterback (David Rockmore) and the coach's desire to get the rest of the team behind him, which is exactly what the coach does in the second and best scene in the film. There wasn't one football cliché left out of the dialogue in this scene.

David is sent by the coach to establish some team spirit between him and a less than supportive team member, Buck. It takes Davey awhile to finally get to Buck, but when he does, Davey gives everything he's got for the good of the team. We can only hope this is a promising trend for Vivid.

ISLAND FEVER

Sarava Productions
Directed by: Kristen Bjorn
Cast: Braulio Duarte, Gilson Monterio, Reinaldo Medeiros, Dario Senna, Adriano Peixoto, Pretao Grandao, Erico Ventania, Diego Lobos, Jair Marinho, Claudio Mattos

Here is a gift just in time for Christmas for all of you whose tastes run toward extraordinarily good looking Latin men. Filmed off the coast of Rio, this video has some of the most beautiful



backgrounds I've seen in any film this year. The locations are expertly used, and make you feel the tropical warmth coming right off the screen.

Unlike some other south of the border offerings, the men in this one know what they're doing and love doing it. I don't believe I have ever seen individual models cum so often in one scene. Every scene has each model cum multiple times. The care taken with camera angles and lighting are state of the art.

The narration is done in English while a young man from his native island prepares to leave for the big city. He takes us on a goodbye tour of his island and remembers all the hot times he's had. Personally, I can't understand why he's leaving. Dialogue during the 110 degree sexual encounters is in Spanish, but you don't need to be bilingual to know exactly what's being said. Some pleasures don't need translation.

The videography, sound and direction are all first rate with just enough plot to get you from here to there. This is one of the best films I've seen this year, and I look forward to more from director Kristen Bjorn. *Brava.*

PLUNGE

Falcon Video Pack 66
Cast: Joey Stefano, Steve Kreig, Buck Tanner, Rod Phillips, Doug Niles, Cal Jensen, Lon Flexe, Luke Bender, Andy Mantegna

This new Falcon release introduces no less than four fresh and very hot newcomers. Two of these newcomers, Joey Stefano and Andy Mantegna, have the roundest and most perfect butts to grace the screen all year. The other two newcomers are both blonds whose talents lie in the opposite direction.

Unfortunately Doug Niles is wasted in a scene between him, Steve Kreig and Joey Stefano. He looks uncomfortable and out of place, sort of like the proverbial third wheel. Since Doug can be so enjoyable, this is a real disappointment.

Falcon gets high marks for including Rod Phillips, whom I haven't seen on film in a while. That smile absolutely lights up the screen and his enjoyment of Cal Jensen and Buck Tanner is a genuine turn-on.

The hottest pairing in the film is between Andy Mantegna and Luke Bender. The energy level is electric. Luke slams Andy with so much force he can't keep the lawn chair from moving all over the pool deck. Both are perfectly matched to deliver what they are most suited for.

Falcon once again scores big. While there's plenty of room for others at the top of the video mountain, Falcon alone remains at the peak, with the others still figuring the best way up.

Next week I'll give you my picks for the best and worst of '89. Thanks for all your letters, suggestions and comments. I hope you all get your holiday fantasies fulfilled.

NOTE: Falcon videos are available by mail or phone order.

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Joey Stefano.

Johnson

(Continued from page 39)

here that's so well-defined, to place far narrower definitions on that sensibility than I would place on it. I think it's much broader and more diverse.

If I had to name the unifying factor... in my own life and among most gay men and lesbians whom I've known, the experience they have in common is that experience in their growing-up years of being on the outside and being observers.

It is that sensibility that you hear in Tennessee Williams' plays and Truman Capote's books—of there being a watcher

in contrast to, say, the macho, hands-on, participatory nature of a Norman Mailer novel. To me, that is one of the key elements of a gay sensibility, and one that arises out of a sense of aloneness that gay people share.

Is there a danger in getting tagged with the "gay" label?

No question about it. One of the irritating things about the New York publishing industry is that they're always looking for a handle to put on you. They don't believe anyone who is gay reads a non-gay novel, or that anyone who isn't gay reads a gay novel. They're searching for that handle to hang on you, so they can put publicity out to a specific place.

So you can be cut off from a mainstream audience.

Even those gay writers—I'll say gay male writers—who have been successful [in reaching a general audience] have achieved that success through the mainstream media. It's because the *New Yorker* has said that David Leavitt is OK that he's gotten the stamp of approval, and that mainstream stamp of approval is still critical.

That's the way the business works, and I don't see it changing. Mainstream business wants to keep the game played according to their rules: first, you make it in New York, then you're acceptable. Then we have a category to put you in, then we can market you. It is a real problem and not one limited to gay writers. Women writers, black writers and others face the same difficulty.

What's the hardest aspect of writing for you?

I know other writers who feel very differently, but for me, a naturally social person, it has been to learn to live with myself. To learn to be alone all of those great lengths of time and, if not to entirely enjoy, then at least to cope. Being a writer is a lonely thing to do.

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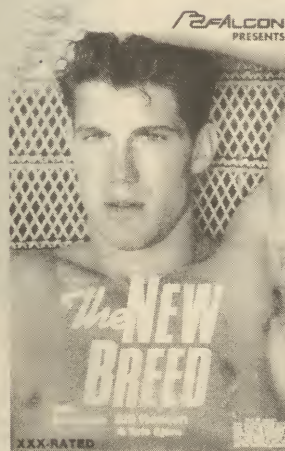
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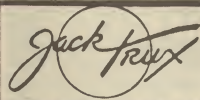
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